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Trade and Industry

4 March 1977

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Aid to shipbuilding industry Advance factory programme USSR's new five-year plan UK trade in the fourth quarter

A £65 million intervention fund has been set up by the government to aid the shipbuilding industry, and a £12 million advance factory programme has been put in hand in ship-building areas.

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Trade and Industry this week

EUROPE

Greek financial protocol concluded

On 28 February the EEC and Greece signed a second financial protocol to the EEC/Greece association agreement. It provides for the community to continue its financial participation in measures designed to accelerate the Greek economy's development. The financial protocol commits a total of 280 million units of account for this purpose – in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank and grants – over a period ending on 31 October 1981.

The loans will be used to assist in the financing of projects which help to increase or diversify Greece's productivity and modernise its agriculture. The aid elements provided for in the protocol are intended for financing technical co-operation between the EEC and Greece, for study projects and for projects modernising Greek agriculture. The protocol re-emphasises one objective in particular of the agreement – that is, the promoting of complementarity between the agriculture of Greece and that of the community.

Silkin talks to Gundelach

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food John Silkin was in Brussels on Monday (28 February) for discussions with commissioner for agriculture Finn Olav Gundelach over matters of concern to the UK agriculture industry.

He took the opportunity to discuss with Mr Gundelach the reported commission proposals to sell EEC butter surpluses to a non-member state.

Pig subsidy

Mr Silkin also discussed with Mr Gundelach the UK special subsidy to pig farmers. The commission has decided that the subsidy infringes community competition rules and has called for the UK to abolish it. Mr Silkin said that he and Mr Gundelach had reached a fair measure of agreement. He hoped that a community solution would be found and agriculture ministers are expected to discuss the matter at their meeting in 10 days time (14 and 15 March).

Giolitti visits UK

Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, met the newly-appointed EEC commissioner for regional policy, Antonio Giolitti, on 28 February. They had a wide-ranging and valuable discussion about the future aims of European regional policy and the particular problems and needs of the UK.

During the remainder of his London visit, which ended on Tuesday afternoon (1 March), commissioner Giolitti met ministers from the other departments concerned with European and national regional policy, representatives of the local authority associations, and both sides of industry.

Commissioner Giolitti's London visit was the second in a round of visits to EEC capitals and followed earlier talks in Bonn; he will be visiting the remaining community capitals later this month.

Commissioner Giolitti (left) with Alan Williams (centre), Minister of State for Industry, and Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State at the Scottish Office.

HOME

Copyright committee calls for revisions

A major revision of the law on copyright and designs is called for in the report of the Committee on Copyright and Design Law published yesterday (3 March).

The recommendations of the committee, chaired by Mr Justice Whitford, include:

A revision of the structure of the Copyright Act to put the law on a plain and uniform basis;

Copyright protection for at least the aesthetic elements of industrial design;

Protection for 25 years from initial marketing for industrial design;

A blanket licensing system for facsimile copying in libraries, a levy on the sale of tape recorders and licensing of coin-operated copying machines;

Protection of computer software against unauthorised use;

A tribunal to arbitrate on disputes over the licensing and levy system.

The committee says that most people find the law on copyright and designs 'complex and confusing'. There is also much misconception as to the scope of the protection available under the general law of copyright and in the field of industrial design – and a degree of overlap between the two.

The best solution, the committee says, would be to start again and produce legislation which was clear and consistent. But, the committee points out, this is impossible because of international commitments and also because certain principles – which may appear illogical – have become established and accepted over the past 250 years.

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said in answer to a written parliamentary question on 23 December that the subjects dealt with in the report were complex and

that the views of interested organisations would be sought before arriving at any conclusion on the report.

A detailed summary of the report is on page 551.

Bootle site for development

A site on land just bought by the Department of Industry has been chosen to take an advance factory allocated to Bootle in the new programme announced by the government on 28 February. The site, at Bridle Road, and located at the rear of the Atlantic Industrial complex, Dunnings Ridge Road, Bootle, has been bought from Walton, Commercial Group Ltd.

The site is on 27 acres of land at Netherton bought by the department for industrial development. The department will encourage new investment in the form of further advance factories or by leasing parts of the site to manufacturing companies. Companies can build their own premises or apply for government factories, built to their own specifications.

Government factory for Wigan

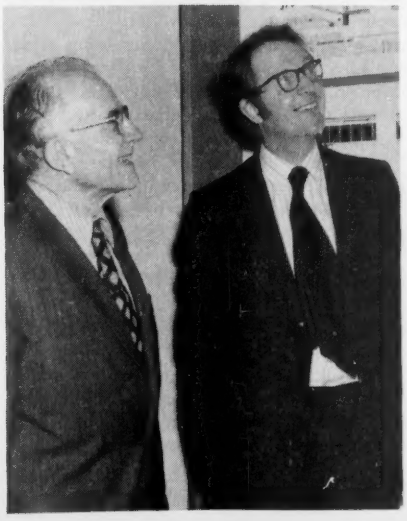
Work has started on an advance factory of about 2,100m² (23,000 sq ft) for the Department of Industry on a new site at Martland Mill, Wigan, Greater Manchester. The premises should be ready for occupation early in September.

The English Industrial Estates Corporation states that a contract worth over £200,000 has been awarded to William Moss and Sons Ltd, Manchester. Architects for the project are Morter, Dobie and Edmunds of Wirral and the quantity surveyors are the Youdan Briggs Partnership of Liverpool.

Inquiries about purchase or lease should be addressed to Mr T. Abbott, Department of Industry, North West Region, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA, tel. 061-236 2171 ext. 646.

Advance factory competition

Some of the winning entries in the English Industrial Estates Corporation's national competition for advance factory design are admired by Sir Horace Heyman (left), the corporation's chairman, and Bob Cryer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry. Details of the government's new advance factory programme are on page 548.



Safety regulations

Regulations on safety representatives and safety committees will be laid before parliament before the end of March to come into force on 1 October 1978.

John Grant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment, stated in answer to a parliamentary question that in the period before the regulations become operative, the government would welcome any move towards voluntary agreements for the introduction of safety representatives and safety committees.

Vinyl chloride diseases

Two diseases arising from exposure to vinyl chloride monomer are prescribed as industrial diseases under regulations laid before parliament on 28 February by Stanley Orme, Minister for Social Security. The diseases are angiosarcoma of the liver (a rare liver cancer) and osteolysis of the terminal phalanges of the fingers.

Industrial injuries benefits will become payable for these two diseases from 21 March 1977 under the industrial diseases provisions of the Social Security Act 1975 to people employed in vinyl chloride monomer polymerisation plants.

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council recommended that the diseases should be prescribed as industrial diseases.

Another 99 well records

Technical details of a further 99 wells drilled in the North Sea can now be examined at the Department of Energy's well record centre in London. The same information is also available for scrutiny in Aberdeen and Leeds. It can also be purchased in microfiche form, from HMSO. This brings to 198 the number of well records that are now available for public scrutiny and purchase.

Oil and gas royalties: £66.6m in 1976

Royalties from the production of oil and gas in 1976 yielded £66.6 million – £22.4 million for gas and £44.2 million for oil.

The figures were given by Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, in answer to a parliamentary question on 1 March.

OVERSEAS

E. European shoes and suits prices

Czechoslovak and Polish exporting organisations have given the Department of Trade undertakings on price levels of men's leather footwear. In an announcement yesterday (3 March), Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said he had found that certain shoes from Czechoslovakia and sandals from Poland had been imported at dumped prices.

Meanwhile prices of suits from six east European countries are to be increased. Mr Dell announced in parliament on 2 March that investigation had revealed a measure of dumping with material injury to the UK industry.

Price undertakings have been given in negotiations with five countries – Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania. In the case of Bulgaria, price increases already being introduced were sufficiently high to make it unnecessary to pursue the case further.

Secretary of State for Trade Edmund Dell (right) met Frigyes Puja, Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, on 3 March. They discussed several trade matters, including a number of projects in the metallurgical sector for which British firms are bidding. Mr Puja was in London for talks with David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Home news

£65m aid for shipbuilders

£65 million of government aid is to be made available to help British shipyards obtain orders. This was announced in parliament on 24 February by Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State, Department of Industry. Speaking of 'the serious crisis facing the world shipbuilding industry,' Mr Kaufman said that 'without swift government action much of the UK's merchant shipbuilding industry could close within two years. There would be heavy unemployment on the Clyde, the Tyne, the Wear and Tees and the Mersey, and in Belfast.

'This is unacceptable to the government,' said Mr Kaufman. 'Shipbuilding industries all over the world, from Japan to Sweden, are accepting the inevitability of contraction, and Britain cannot be insulated from this world trend. What we must do is ensure that it takes place within a positive forward-looking policy framework.

'The government is determined to emerge from this crisis with a substantial and viable shipbuilding industry with secure long-term employment prospects.

'The government has therefore decided to use its powers under part 2 of the Industry Act 1972 to assist the yards in Britain to obtain orders. A sum of £65 million has been set aside for this purpose, of which half will be available during the next six months. This figure will be the control ceiling and will operate in place of the cash limit covering all forms of assistance for building ships, which will be terminated. The Industrial Development Advisory Board will be consulted about the fund.

'Harland and Wolff, which is already in public ownership, will not be part of British Shipbuilders and will continue to be dealt with by my rt hon friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

'In accordance with our obligations under the Treaty of Rome we have informed the Commission for the European Economic Community of our intention to introduce this intervention fund as a matter of urgency. In our view these proposals conform with our treaty obligations. We continue to be firm advocates of a community policy for shipbuilding.

'The intervention fund will be operated selectively to secure the maximum benefit at least cost. In its administration my department will work in consultation with the Organising Committee for British Shipbuilders, which will have an important advisory role. In considering the use of the fund my department will wish to discuss with the companies concerned the scope for reducing costs and improving performance.

'National Shipbuilders and Repairers Ltd will have an important role in seeking new orders for the industry, and its activities will be assisted by the creation of the intervention fund. I shall be placing in the library of both houses a copy of the company's memorandum and articles of association as soon as the company is registered.

'To complement this action a major advance factory programme costing over £12 million has been put in hand in shipbuilding areas. *(see below)*

'To assist British Shipbuilders, when it is created, to alleviate the human problems caused by the contraction of the industry, I shall be bringing forward proposals to parliament for a redundancy scheme similar to that for the British Steel Corporation. Similar arrangements will be made for Harland and Wolff.

'My immediate concern is to secure orders in order to promote the increased competitiveness needed to secure a future for the industry. These measures to alleviate the industrial and social effects of the world shipbuilding crisis are important and must form part of a longer-term strategy of modernisation and rationalisation following upon public ownership.'

New intervention unit

John Teasdale, 53, has been appointed to head a new unit within the Department of Industry's Shipbuilding Policy Division to administer the £65 million intervention fund for the shipbuilding industry, announced by Gerald Kaufman on 24 February. Mr Teasdale took up the appointment on promotion to assistant secretary on 28 February. He was deputy regional director, northern region, for six and a half years and has been mainly concerned with industrial development and latterly with financial assistance. He was previously at the department's Leeds and Birmingham offices.

New advance factory programme

More than 5,000 new jobs in shipbuilding areas are expected from a £14 million advance factory programme announced on 28 February by Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry. The factories will be concentrated mainly in the shipbuilding areas of the north-east and the north-west of England.

Mr Williams has asked the English Industrial Estates Corporation to provide the Department of Industry with a further range of advance factories in those parts of the country where changes from traditional heavy industries to lighter manufacturing industry are occuring most rapidly.

'The new programme,' said Mr Williams, 'is therefore concentrated particularly in the north-east and the north-west of England where shipbuilding yards are centred but includes other locations where need is established.'

The valuable contribution to industrial diversification and job creation made by advance factories in the assisted areas was commended by Mr Williams: 'As a result of existing factory building programmes many parts of the assisted areas are already in a position to attract industry by having modern and efficient factories immediately available. The department is seeking tenants vigorously and for this purpose can deploy the full range of regional and industrial incentives provided by the industry acts.'

Mr Williams pointed out that the 5,200 potential jobs would supplement the 60,000 jobs already provided by manufacturing industry in factories which the English Industrial Estates Corporation leases to industry in the assisted areas on behalf of the department.

Particular attention is again being paid to the provision of small terrace factory units suitable for smaller firms and some of these units are to be located in urban areas.

Notes

This advance factory programme is the eighth announced by the government since July 1974. More than 238 factories have been announced for England in this period, providing some 3.1 million sq ft of space.

Previous programmes are well under way with 40 advance factories completed and now available and 106 under construction. The factories announced will start becoming available from the autumn but the programme is phased over the next two years. A land acquisition programme is required for some locations before it will be possible to make starts. But in some shipbuilding areas, to which the major part of the programme is directed, early starts can be made on land already available to the department.

Advance factories are constructed for the Department of Industry by the English Industrial Estates Corporation, and are allocated by the department's regional directors.

Besides advance factories the department is prepared to build factories to the specific requirement of manufacturers and most advance factories are built to allow for later expansion.

Rents for government factories are set at current market values as assessed by the district valuer but most applicants qualify for an initial two-year rent-free period.

The size and location of factories announced on 28 February are as follows:

Location	Area (m²)
NORTHERN REGION	
Consett	1 × 929.03
Cramlington	1 × 929.03
Longbenton	3 × 929.03 (TU)
	1 × 1,393.5 (TU)
	6 × 1,393.5
	2 × 1,858.04
Tynemouth	2 × 1,393.5 (TU)
	4 × 1,858.04
	1 × 2,322.6
Newcastle	4 × 929.03
Wallsend	2 × 2,601.2 (TU)
South Shields (Rekendyke)	1 × 464.5
	1 × 929.03
	1 × 1,393.5
South Shields (Middlefields)	2 × 557.4 (TU)
	1 × 929.03 (TU)
	2 × 929.03
	4 × 464.5
Hebburn	1 × 929.03
	2 × 1,393.5
Sunderland	2 × 1,393.5
	5 × 929.03
Teesside (Thornaby)	1 × 1,393.5 (TU)
	2 × 1,393.5
	2 × 2,322.6
	1 × 2,601.2 (TU)
Teesside (Billingham)	11,148,827
NORTH WEST REGION	
Bromborough	2 × 2,322.6
	3 × 1,393.5
	2 × 929.03
Birkenhead	2 × 2,322.6
	2 × 1,393.5
Bootle	2 × 2,322.6
Liverpool	1 × 1,393.5 (TU)
	1 × 1,021.93 (TU)
	1 × 1,765.16 (TU)
St Helens	1 × 1,393.5
Ellesmere Port	1 × 1,393.5
Oldham	1 × 929.03
Barnoldswick	1 × 929.03
Denton	1 × 929.03
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE REGION	
Elland	1 × 464.5
Scarborough	1 × 464.5
SOUTH WEST REGION	
Liskeard	1 × 929.03
EAST MIDLANDS REGION	
Chesterfield	1 × 1,393.5
Gainsborough	1 × 1,393.5

TU = Terrace unit

Industry Act assistance: interest rates reduced

The maximum rate of Interest Relief Grant and interest rates for loans under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 have been reduced with effect from 28 February.

The rate of Interest Relief Grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest-free period on a Department of Industry loan – but where firms obtain their finance from other sources – is being reduced from 15 per cent to 14½ per cent for each interest-free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (category A) is reduced from 12 per cent to 11½ per cent. The 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (category B) is reduced from 15 per cent to 14½ per cent.

Dunlop to invest £10m in UK tyre plant

A £10 million expansion and modernisation of Dunlop's radial truck tyre manufacturing facilities at Fort Dunlop, Birmingham, Europe's largest tyre factory, has been announced. Scheduled to come into production from 1978, the additional facilities will increase capacity of a wide range of radial truck tyres by some 40 per cent.

Commenting on this investment, Geoffrey Wheater, director, Dunlop Holdings Ltd, who is responsible for all the company's European tyre operations, said: 'World-wide demand for British-made radial truck tyres has continued to grow. Our decision to invest in new plant in the United Kingdom at this time underlines our confidence not only in the future potential of the radial-tyre market in the UK but our determination to meet the increasing needs of overseas vehicle manufacturers and the replacement market abroad.

'British industry is frequently criticised for its lack of investment in new plant and equipment,' he remarked, 'so it is particularly significant that Dunlop has taken this decision to ensure that the most up-to-date manufacturing techniques are employed in the United Kingdom.'

Exports of Dunlop truck tyres from the UK have been rising steadily in recent years, particularly to the Middle East, Africa and North America. Despite strong competition from American, Japanese and European manufacturers, overseas sales of all tyres produced by the UK based Tyre Division last year reached £26 million for the first time.

£1.5m expansion at Burton-on-Trent

A £1.5 million plus programme to finance major factory expansion, installation of new plant and equipment and extra working capital is now under way at Robert Morton DG Ltd., Burton-on-Trent, a member of

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the engineering division of Lindustries Ltd.

When the expansion is completed in July 1977 RMDG's workshop area will have been extended to almost twice the present size giving a total area of 5,550m² (60,000 sq ft).

The increased floor area will provide RMDG with much needed additional space for the fabrication facility associated with plant required by the brewery, food and process industries.

Several new contracts worth over £1.6 million for the supply of brewing equipment in Britain and overseas have recently been won by the company.

Government's expenditure plans

The second volume of the government's latest White Paper on public expenditure* has been published. (The first volume† was published on 27 January). This second volume describes in more detail the expenditure programmes summarised in the first volume; it also contains some supporting material, including a description of the nationalised industry investment programmes to 1980-81 and of the way these are expected to be financed from internal and other sources in the period to 1977-78.

* *The Government's Expenditure Plans, Volume II,* Cmnd. 6721-II, HMSO, £2.35.
† Cmnd. 6721-I.

Dell identifies common ground on industrial democracy

Areas of common ground in the debate on industrial democracy were identified by Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, in a speech on 24 February to the national conference of the Society for Long Range Planning.

The most important areas, Mr Dell said were:

management must not be hindered in its efforts to achieve success for the company;

there is a need, if industrial democracy is to work, for commitment by all sides to the purposes of the company;

the acceptance of the need for improved participation and of the need for legislation as an instrument for improving participation, at least in many companies;

the desirability of the maximum possible flexibility so that companies can make the arrangements best suited to them;

a widespread – though not yet general – acceptance of the principle that in certain circumstances it will be appropriate to appoint employee directors;

trade unions have an essential role in any system for developing participation;

no disincentive should be created to investment and, specifically, inward investment.

Mr Dell stressed that his listing of features of a common ground did not mean that there were no 'major areas of controversy'. There were. He instanced the unitary versus two-tier board structure, the equal representation of employee representatives with shareholders on boards, the trade union 'trigger', the position of middle management.

'I do not conceal from myself that despite what I have said about the common ground there is a difficult time ahead attempting to get consensus on this question of industrial democracy,' he said. 'Nevertheless it is welcome that there appears now to be widespread agreement that there must be a fundamental development in our arrangements for participation in industry.

'There are differences, sometimes deep, and views strongly held, about the development of our arrangements for participation.

'I hope it is true that these differences are very largely about the means by which participation in industry should be improved.

'We will certainly go on striving to find an acceptable basis for legislation, and I am sure that it is in the national interest that such a basis should be found.'

Official appointments

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry has made the following appointments:

National Research Development Corporation. Joe Gormley to be a member of the National Research Development Corporation, for three years from 1 March 1977. Mr Gormley is president of the National Union of Mineworkers and a member of the Trades Union Congress General Council.

Post Office Board. Denis E. Roberts to succeed Alex Currall on the Post Office Board as the managing director, posts. Mr Roberts, at present the senior director, postal services, will take up his new appointment on 1 August.

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has made the following appointments:

Electricity Consultative Councils. Councillor S. G. Flude to be a member of the East Midlands Electricity Consultative Council until 30 November 1978.

Councillor Mrs N. Jones to be a member of the Midlands Electricity Consultative Council until 30 April 1979.

Councillors Mrs V. Kingdom and Mrs M. Thomas to be members of the South Wales Electricity Consultative Council until 30 September 1979.

Councillors Mrs H. Pearson, C. E. Shopland and J. Thompson to be members of the North Eastern Electricity Consultative Council until 31 May 1979.

Consumer Protection Advisory Committee. Mrs Caroline Schwarcz to serve on the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee.

Gas Consumer Councils. Councillor Mrs J. Mont to be a member of the South Eastern Gas Consumers' Council until 30 June 1979.

Councillors Mrs Audrey Chalmers and Lawrence Smith, and Brian Slater as members of the Eastern Gas Consumers' Council until 30 November 1979.

British Hallmarking Council. The following to be members of the British Hallmarking Council until 31 December 1979:

Trade members: George M. Dyson, C. C. Hames, E. S. Poyser, R. F. H. Vander.

Consumer protection members: Mrs Ruth Klemperer, Mrs Anne Mack, B. F. Wrighton.

Other members: Mrs S. J. Bury, Dr H. Egan, rt hon Lord Glenkinglas.

The following members of the council have been appointed by the Assay Offices for the same period: *Edinburgh*, C. K. Murray; *Birmingham*, W. E. Kenrich and H. a' B. Eccles-Williams; *London*, rt hon Viscount Runciman of Doxford, R. I. Threfall; *Sheffield*, D. Lacy-Hulbert.

Mr Dyson, Mrs Klemperer and Mr Eccles-Williams are new appointments. The other persons served on the council during the period 1974-76. Lord Runciman was chairman of the council for this period.

7.5 million overseas visitors to London

An estimated 7,500,000 overseas visitors came to London in 1976 for stays of one night or more, reports the British Tourist Authority. Nearly 50 per cent of these travellers also made trips of one night or more to other parts of England, Scotland and Wales.

In addition to overseas visitors, the capital attracted 10,500,000 staying visitors from other parts of the UK during the year.

Although outnumbered by British visitors, overseas visitors to London in 1976 accounted for 70 per cent of the city's tourist income, but much of their spending in London went on making arrangements – fares, car hire, advance accommodation bookings – for travel to other parts of Britain.

The BTA revealed these facts when it published the results of the *London Visitors Survey, 1976*. This is the fourth in a series of annual surveys commissioned jointly by the BTA, the London Tourist Board and the London Transport Executive. The study was carried out on behalf of the three organisations by Research Surveys of Great Britain Ltd.

The full results of the *London Visitors Survey, 1976*, are available from the British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London SW1A 1NF, price £6, including postage and packing. (*See also page 572.*)

New CAA Scottish headquarters

New Scottish headquarters for the Civil Aviation Authority were formally opened on 25 February.

Located at 1a Traquair Park East, Corstorphine, the new building is named Aviation House and is the focal point for the Civil Aviation Authority in Scotland. The authority's Office for Scotland was previously housed in Government Buildings, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh.

The CAA employs over 1,200 staff in Scotland who are responsible for air traffic control, both over Scotland and for the air routes over the Atlantic Ocean, including an extensive Scottish telecommunications organisation providing radar, radio and air navigation facilities; the management of the CAA's eight Highlands and Islands aerodromes (Sumburgh, Kirkwall, Wick, Inverness, Stornoway, Benbecula ,Tiree and Islay); the supervision of the airworthiness of aircraft and the operational safety of public transport operators based in Scotland; and the licensing of aerodromes.

Based in the new Aviation House are the CAA's Scottish Controller, the Chief Telecommunications Officer, the Senior Operations Officer, the Highlands and Islands Airports Management Group, the Deputy Inspector of Air Traffic Control, and Accountant for Scotland, with their staffs. The new headquarters is sited within easy reach of the administrative centre of Edinburgh and of Turnhouse Airport.

Plymouth marine move

Department of Trade Mercantile Marine Office (southern England and south Wales district) and Marine Survey Office (south and south-west of England district) are to move on 7 March. The new address will be Phoenix House, Notte Street, Plymouth, Devon PL1 2HF, telephone: Mercantile marine office, Plymouth (0752) 63085; Marine Survey Office, Plymouth (0752) 266211/2. Telex: 45494 answer back DTI PLYMOUTH.

Detailed summary of Whitford report on copyright law

General considerations
The committee recognises that there is some confusion and uncertainty surrounding the present law, and recommends that the general structure of the 1956 Copyright Act should be revised to place the law on a plain and uniform basis. The committee also proposes a number of relatively minor changes in the law, necessary if the UK is to adhere to the latest text of the Berne Convention.

International conventions
The committee examines the UK's obligations under the Berne and Universal Copyright Conventions. It proposes that copyright law should be amended to enable the UK to ratify the Berne Convention.

Industrial design
The report notes that the Design Copyright Act 1968, a private member's measure, gave automatic protection against copying to all machine parts which started life as drawings.

The dependence on an original drawing for protection of a design is recognised as an anomaly by the committee, which recommend its removal. The committee is divided on the degree of protection that should be given to designs themselves.

But it is unanimous in recommending the retention of some measure of automatic protection under copyright law for the more aesthetic industrial designs for the period of 25 years required by the latest text of the Berne Convention. Again, there is no unanimous view on whether protection goes to the appearance of the article as a whole or only the aesthetic features; all but two of the committee take the first view.

As far as the more functional designs are concerned, the committee are again divided in their views. Two recommend no copyright protection whatsoever, four recommend the same protection as for other (ie aesthetic) designs, and three recommend the introduction of a new design deposit copyright system giving protection for up to 25 years.

The committee sees the dividing line between the two categories of designs – aesthetic and the more functional – as lying at the point where the appearance of an article ceases in itself to influence the making of a purchase.

Other recommendations on industrial designs include the repeal of the Registered Designs Act 1949, on which 20 staff are engaged at the Patent Office and which provides a system of monopoly protection for registered designs; the introduction of Crown user rights (provided under patent and registered designs laws); the introduction of compulsory licences (in respect of the more functional designs only); and the requirement of international reciprocity to provide that foreigners should not get more automatic protection in the UK than they give the UK designers in their respective countries.

Reprographic reproduction
The committee notes that advances in the field of reprographic reproduction have led to difficulty in policing infringements of copyright caused by the use of photocopying machines.

The committee proposes a scheme under which copyright owners can enforce their rights against library, educational, government, industrial and professional users only if they form societies to operate the right collectively under so-called blanket licensing schemes. But these schemes would not allow users to extend their activities, for example, to publishing.

The committee proposes that users who want to reproduce copyright material would need a licence from a collecting society, which must be approved by a minister and which will undertake to distribute proceeds to copyright owners whose works are copied. Different societies may operate in different fields but only approved collecting societies would be permitted.

If schemes were not promulgated after due time there would in effect be a free-for-all in some or all fields, and there would be provision for appeal to the Copyright Tribunal.

The committee also proposes that the present latitude for the making of single copies by designated libraries without fee should cease.

These proposals cover copying by institutions, but the committee also recommends that an individual should not be permitted to copy mechanically, even for his own use, without fee. The committee says that coin-operated copying machines should be licensed and that it would not be possible to restrict the use of such machines to non-copyright material.

Audio and video recording
The committee recognises the problem of policing copyright infringements, mostly taking place in the home by people taping music from the radio and records, and proposes a levy to be charged on the sale of all suitable equipment. For educational users of recording equipment, the committee proposes that the levy should be supplemented by an annual licence fee payable under a negotiated blanket licensing scheme.

Statutory recording licence
The report recommends that the Copyright Tribunal should determine the rate of statutory royalty and the basis on which it should be calculated. It also recommends that the statutory royalty should apply to all records issued to the public including those that may be given away for promotional purposes.

Performing rights and performers' rights
The committee recommends a general consolidation of the Performers' Protection Acts.

Diffusion over cable networks
The report studies how broadcasters and other copyright owners can control the diffusion of their works over cable networks. The committee recommends measures designed to remove difficulties over Britain's international convention position.

Computers
Protection against copying of computer programs, and of software generally, should be clarified and strengthened.

Typefaces
The committee recommends that copyright law should give 25 year protection of typefaces, and that the UK should ratify the Vienna Agreement on the Protection of Type Faces.

Ownership of copyright
Certain changes on ownership of copyright are proposed by the committee. These affect people creating copyright works, whether under contract of employment or as a result of being commissioned. The committee proposes that an employer shall have only rights which were contemplated at the time the work was made.

Reversionary interests
To resolve current uncertainty, the committee recommends that, in the case of works caught by the reversionary rights provision, the law should clearly provide for assignments and licences in respect of the residuary period to be made by the author (during his lifetime) or his personal representative (after his death) at any time.

Term of copyright protection
A fixed maximum term – generally life plus 50 years – should be substituted for the present possibility of perpetual copyright in unpublished works, is recommended.

Exceptions
The committee recommends that there should be a general exception covering all classes of copyright works and subject matters in favour of 'fair dealing', which does not conflict with normal exploitation of a work or subject matter and does not unreasonably prejudice the copyright owners' legitimate interests.

Remedies and related matters
The committee reviews the existing civil remedies – damages, delivery-up and injunctions – and the criminal remedies available under the Copyright Act 1956, and recommends various changes.

Copyright tribunal
The committee says that the present Performing Right Tribunal should take on wider responsibilities and be renamed the Copyright Tribunal. In particular it would have jurisdiction over the proposed blanket licensing schemes.

Droit de suite (artists' resale right)
The committee concludes that a droit de suite – the right of artists to benefit when their work is resold at prices many times that originally paid – should not be introduced in the UK.

Libraries of legal deposit
It is proposed that the system provided for in the 1911 Copyright Act under which publishers provide copies of their books to up to six libraries should continue, but that the financial burden should be shifted to the State.

Prices policy and the nationalised industries

Three steps to improve the social accountability of the nationalised industries were outlined on 24 February by Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Speaking in Cardiff at a meeting of the Transport Users' Consultative Committee for Wales, Mr Maclennan said that the new proposed policy for prices would be more effective than the Price Code in stopping companies from making unjustifiable price increases. 'But the impact of the policy must be felt upon the prices charged for the goods and services provided by the nationalised industries.' Domestic fuel charges and train fares in particular have of late borne at least as heavily upon the family budget as the prices of goods bought in the shops.

'The government has taken the responsibility of reversing a policy that had only held down the prices of the nationalised industries by driving them into deficit. With rising costs, dwindling surpluses and the need for new investment the policy of deficit financing of nationalised industries, of looking to the taxpayer to pay the consumers' bills, was a dangerous nonsense that simply stored up trouble for both industry and the consumer.

'It is not enough, however, simply to stop deficit financing. We have to ensure that the prices charged by the nationalised industries, which enjoy a statutory monopoly of the supply of these goods and services, are only what can be justified by sound management and prudent financing requirements. There have been voices loud in proclaiming that the forces of competition are sufficient to restrain abusive pricing in the private sector. Though I doubt the adequacy and sometimes even the existence of competition to ensure socially responsible pricing in all cases, competition can act as the first line of defence for the consumer. In the public sector, however, that defence cannot be relied upon.

'The government has therefore undertaken three major ongoing operations intended to improve the social accountability of the nationalised industries.

'The first is the redefinition of the role of the consumer councils, including consultations on pricing proposals. There are at present limitations, some of them statutory, upon the capability of the councils to look behind proposed price increases. It is, however, wholly appropriate that these councils should be able to voice the reaction of the consumer to what is proposed.

'The second government operation stems from the report on the nationalised industries produced at the end of last year by the National Economic Development Office, following the inquiry that the government asked the office to undertake in June 1975. Among their other recommendations, those particularly pertinent to pricing decisions and financial needs are:

1 Relevant indicators of efficiency should be established to supplement any financial targets, particularly for corporations that are not constrained by highly competitive markets;
2 Standards of service should be made more explicit, particularly in circumstances where nationalised industries' industrial and domestic consumers have limited choice of alternative products or services;
3 Pricing policies and investment appraisal criteria should be designed to lead to the most efficient allocation of resources but should also reflect the particular market and investment environment of each nationalised industry.

'These recommendations are being vigorously followed up and the government will respond later in the year.

'Third, there is the new government policy on prices. In place of the cumbersome rigidities of the cost controls operated under the present Price Code we propose a new instrument for specific investigations into prices by the independent and reconstructed Price Commission. Nationalised industries will be within the ambit of this policy. Under the legislation which we shall shortly be bringing forward, the commission will be able to investigate the prices of those nationalised industries referred to it by the government.

'The duty to price responsibly lies first with the nationalised industry itself. It is no part of our policy arbitrarily to place obstacles in the path of good management: a slalom course may demonstrate dexterity but it slows progress to the finishing-point. The existing Price Code had some of these characteristics. But in the case of the nationalised industries the interlocking, though not overlapping, checks I have described are needed to avoid unacceptable pricing policies.

'The secretary of state will be meeting representatives of the nationalised industries during the next few weeks of consultations on the new prices policy.'

Babcock and Wilcox and Herbert Morris

In the light of a divided report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the existing and contemplated merger situations between Babcock and Wilcox Ltd and Herbert Morris Ltd, Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided that there are no grounds for further intervention. In the report, three members of the commission held that the merger situations might be expected to operate against the public interest but two members of the group, including the chairman of the commission, concluded that they might not.

In reply to a parliamentary question from Terry Walker (Kingswood), John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said:

'My rt hon friend received the report on 20 January and it is being published today. The commission were divided in their views. Three members held that a Babcock and Wilcox acquisition of Herbert Morris would be contrary to the public interest in that it could endanger the satisfactory development of Herbert Morris by putting at risk the effectiveness of its management and hence its successful progress in improving productivity, developing new products for home and export markets and modernising its manufacturing plant. It would also, in their view, put at risk sales by Herbert Morris, in markets served by the American Chain and Cable Co Inc (ACCO – a subsidiary of Babcock and Wilcox) of such products of theirs as are similar to those made by ACCO. These adverse effects would not in their view be offset by the possibility of advantage to Herbert Morris from the availability of financial support from Babcock and Wilcox, from sharing in its research and development resources and from the use of its overseas representation. These members therefore recommended that the proposed acquisition should not be permitted. They also felt that the existing Babcock and Wilcox shareholding in Herbert Morris would enable it materially to influence the latter's policy and indeed obtain representation on the Herbert Morris board (which would involve the same risks as acquisition). They therefore recommended that that holding should be reduced to not more than 10 per cent and that until such reduction Babcock and Wilcox should not exercise voting rights in respect of more than a 10 per cent holding.

'In contrast, two members, including the chairman of the commission, held that while in recent years Herbert Morris had been a successful and enterprising company it would not suffer any prejudice from union with a group as well established, well organised and well managed as they considered Babcock and Wilcox to be. In particular they saw no reason to doubt the strength of the future management once things had settled down: nor did they see any reason why Babcock and Wilcox should be less keen than Herbert Morris to develop sales of the latter's products in North America, through ACCO or otherwise. Moreover, they put greater weight than did their colleagues on certain technological, marketing and other advantages which Babcock and Wilcox had to offer. They therefore saw no ground for concluding that either the existing or the contemplated merger situation would operate against the public interest.

'Where, as in this case, the reference has been considered by a group of members of the commission, my rt hon friend can only take action under the act in respect of the merger or proposed merger if at least two-thirds of the members of that group have found the merger to be against the public interest. Since there is not a two-thirds majority, no action under the act is possible in this case. Moreover, the arguments for and against the merger are finely balanced as is evidenced by the minority report signed by the chairman of the commission. There are, therefore, no grounds for further intervention by my rt hon friend and the outcome must now be

determined by those directly concerned.'

Notes
The secretary of state referred the existing and contemplated merger situations between Babcock and Wilcox Ltd and Herbert Morris Ltd to the commission on 22 October 1976.

Schedule 3 paragraph 16 of the Fair Trading Act 1973 requires that for the purposes of the order-making powers available to the secretary of state under section 73 of the Act, a conclusion contained in the report of the commission shall be disregarded if the report is made through a group and the conclusion is not that of at least two-thirds of the members of the group.

Copies of the report (HoC 175) are available, price 91½p, from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB and branches or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1.

Diazo copying materials
Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the supply of diazo copying materials was published on 2 March. (House of Commons Paper 165, HMSO £1.60). Details to be published next week.

Give customer relationship codes a chance

There is a danger of 'throwing out the baby with the bath water' by premature criticism of the codes of practice which trade bodies have adopted to raise customer relations standards. This was stated by Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, when he addressed the Multiple Shoe Retailers Association in London recently.

'I have been disturbed recently at some of the criticisms being levelled at codes,' said Mr Borrie. 'Frankly, my present position is that codes are still on trial. I welcome comment on codes, provided it is fair and based on reasonable evidence. I do not see codes as a cure-all for every consumer ailment. And I do not think that any trade would claim to be universally whiter than white. But I do feel that codes of practice – still a relatively new idea in this country – should be given a chance to prove themselves. And I think the trade associations should be given some credit and encouragement for what they are trying to do by means of codes.

'The January edition of *Motoring Which* had some harsh words to say about the motor code based partly on a survey of consumer complaints which arose largely before the code came into operation. Is it fair to condemn the whole code on such evidence? On the other hand can the trade afford to be complacent?

'I intend to place my emphasis on monitoring the performance of codes of practice. If performance is below par I shall say so loudly and publicly and if necessary will withdraw my blessing from a code which appears to be failing because traders are not observing it. But until we have found evidence let us not condemn codes until they have had a chance to prove themselves.'

New consumer representatives welcomed

A wider variety of consumer representation is being sought for appointments to consumer protection bodies. John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, replying on 23 February to a parliamentary question from Jim Callaghan (Middleton and Prestwich), said:

'I make appointments to a wide range of consumer protection bodies, at national and local level, and am always happy to receive names from as wide a variety of sources as possible, including both individuals and consumer and other organisations; I am particularly concerned to ensure that the less privileged sections of the community are represented. My department would welcome information about anybody who might wish to make a contribution to the work of these bodies, for consideration when suitable vacancies arise.'

Clearance of merger proposals

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Colgate Holdings (UK) Ltd/Joseph Terry and Sons Ltd;
A. Guinness, Son and Co Ltd/Kimpher Ltd.

Greater interest in Machine Tool Scheme

In two months – up to the end of January – applications submitted to the Department of Industry by firms interested in the Machine Tool Industry Scheme have nearly trebled. Since the end of November 1976 the interest shown in the Department of Industry's Machine Tool Industry Scheme has increased sharply. By 27 January the number of applications approved or under consideration had risen from 52 to 149. These applications came from 92 machine tool companies (some of which have made more than one application) and 49 tool-making companies. They cover projects valued at some £87 million and involve potential assistance under the scheme of £17.3 million. Some £26 million of the project value and £6.2 million of the potential assistance is in respect of projects for product development. The balance of about £61 million of project value and £11 million of potential assistance is for projects for new equipment or other facilities.

This represents a substantial demonstration of interest in the scheme, which has been the subject of extensive publicity by the Department of Industry and, through a series of regional visits, by Lord Brown, chairman of the department's Manufacturing Machinery Advisory Committee. As a result, British machine tool manufacturers should be showing significant progress in the next few years

The scheme was originally announced by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, in August 1975 and was modified in August 1976 to make it more attractive, particularly to smaller firms, and to broaden the definition of eligible firms. The scheme, which operates under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972, is designed to promote the development of new products, improvements in production facilities and machinery, rationalisation of existing product ranges and the adoption of modern management techniques in the metal working machine tool industry. Originally applications had to be received by 31 December 1976 but the date for applications has recently been extended until 31 December 1977.

Government sales

Ministry of Defence Sales by auction

17 March 1977 – Miscellaneous stores

Location
The Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, Stirling

Auctioneers
Dixon and Wallace (Dept. L), Bank Buildings, Graham Square, Glasgow G31 1AW (tel. 041-554 2447)

The stores are lying at various depots in Scotland and include 57 vehicles, various items of plant and machine tools, forklift trucks and generators. A large collection of service clothing and textiles, furniture and many other interesting items.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc. are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Proposed acquisition by Provident Financial Group Ltd of Cattle's (Holdings) Ltd

On 18 February 1977 Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report, under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973, the proposed acquisition by Provident Financial Group Ltd of Cattle's (Holdings) Ltd. The commission are required to make their report within a period of five months.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission wish to have comments or evidence on this proposal from interested parties. Any person or organisation wishing to give such evidence should write as soon as possible to:

The Secretary
Monopolies and Mergers Commission
New Court
48 Carey Street
London WC2A 2JT

Tax advantages for private and business support of the arts

Advantages available under the tax rules for private and business support of the Arts are explained in a memorandum issued by the Department of Education and Science.

In a written reply to John Garrett (Norwich South) who asked about the memorandum, promised by the Prime Minister on 2 December, Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said:

'The memorandum is being issued by my department today to the national museums, galleries and libraries, to all local authorities maintaining museums, galleries or libraries, to a wide range of learned bodies and journals, and to professional bodies whose members advise individuals and businesses on their tax affairs. I have arranged for copies to be available in the Library. Further copies are available on request to my department.'

The points covered by the memorandum include:

1 Donations under deed of covenant and sponsorship for purposes of business advertising, etc, which may in suitable circumstances qualify for income tax or corporation tax relief.

2 Exemption from capital transfer tax and capital gains tax of gifts to charities and specified bodies concerned with the national heritage.

3 Acceptance of objects or collections of objects in satisfaction of capital transfer tax.

4 Exemption from capital transfer tax of important works in private hands, including the arrangements for calculating a special price which shares the benefit of this exemption between the private owner and the museum or art gallery concerned if the exempt work is sold to a public collection.

Copies are available from Arts and Libraries Branch, Department of Education and Science, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

Average retail food prices on 18 January

Average retail prices of about 80 important food items on Tuesday 18 January 1977 are shown in the table below. The Department of Employment collects these prices from 200 areas in the United Kingdom on one specific day each month for the General Index of Retail Prices. They come from between 500 and 1,000 retailers representative of those from whom the great majority of the population make their purchase. Many of the items vary in quality from retailer to retailer and partly because of these differences there are considerable variations in the prices charged for many items. An indication of these variations is given in the last column of the table, which shows the range of prices within which at least four-fifths, of the recorded prices fell. The average prices are subject to sampling error.

Note

The current figures will be published in the February 1977 issue of the *Department of Employment Gazette*. Prices since November 1967 have been published in earlier issues.

AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 18 JANUARY 1977

Average prices and price range (per lb unless otherwise stated)

Item	Average price p	Price range From p	Price range To p
Beef: home-killed			
Chuck	87.9	80	96
Sirloin (without bone)	135.7	110	160
Silverside (without bone)*	115.8	104	128
Back ribs (with bone)*	81.4	68	98
Fore ribs (with bone)	79.8	68	92
Brisket (without bone)	78.3	64	92
Rump steak*	152.8	128	170
Beef: imported chilled (a)			
Chuck	—	—	—
Silverside (without bone)*	—	—	—
Rump steak*	—	—	—
Lamb: home-killed			
Loin (with bone)	98.5	85	112
Breast*	32.5	24	44
Best end of neck	73.8	48	94
Shoulder (with bone)	67.8	58	78
Leg (with bone)	93.3	84	104
Lamb: imported			
Loin (with bone)	83.2	74	92
Breast*	25.6	20	32
Best end of neck	68.5	45	84
Shoulder (with bone)	58.6	50	68
Leg (with bone)	86.4	80	92
Pork: home-killed			
Leg (foot off)	70.7	58	86
Belly*	53.0	48	58
Loin (with bone)	84.1	76	95
Sausages			
Pork	43.8	38	49
Beef	39.4	34	46
Roasting chicken			
Broiler, frozen 3 lb	39.5	36	44
Fresh or chilled 4 lb (oven ready)	45.9	40	52
Fresh fish			
Cod fillets	82.0	72	92
Haddock fillets	83.0	70	95
Haddock, smoked, whole	77.1	66	90
Plaice fillets	91.6	75	110
Halibut cuts	127.7	75	150
Herrings	38.3	30	46
Kippers, (with bone)	47.2	38	56
Fresh vegetables			
Potatoes, old, loose			
White	12.3	11	14
Red	13.1	12	15
Potatoes, new, loose	—	—	—
Tomatoes	36.8	30	44
Cabbage, greens	15.2	9	22
Cabbage, hearted	13.3	9	18
Cauliflower or broccoli	27.6	15	40
Brussels sprouts	21.8	16	28
Carrots	14.3	12	18
Onions	16.3	14	20
Mushrooms, per ¼ lb	14.7	12	17
Fresh fruit			
Apples, cooking	15.1	12	18
Apples, dessert	17.7	14	22
Pears, dessert	18.1	14	22
Oranges	15.7	12	20
Bananas	16.7	12	20
Bread			
White, 1½ lb wrapped and sliced loaf	19.9	18	21
White, 1½ lb unwrapped loaf	21.2	20	24
White, 14 oz loaf	14.6	13½	16
Brown, 14 oz loaf	15.8	15	16½
Flour			
Self-raising, per 3 lb	23.5	18	29
Bacon			
Collar*	70.1	60	80
Gammon*	90.5	78	100
Middle cut, smoked*	83.4	74	98
Back, smoked	91.6	74	106
Back, unsmoked	88.4	70	104
Streaky, smoked	73.9	64	90
Ham (not shoulder)	117.0	96	140
Pork luncheon meat, 12 oz can	31.9	25	37
Canned (red) salmon, ½-size can	88.9	82	98
Milk, ordinary, per pint	10.5	—	—
Butter			
New Zealand	53.8	50	58
Danish	58.6	54	62
Home produced	57.5	52	63
Margarine			
Standard quality (without added butter)	13.0	11½	13½
Lower priced	12.3	11½	13
Lard	22.2	19	27
Cheese, cheddar type	57.9	50	68
Eggs, per doz			
Large	51.3	48	56
Standard	47.8	44	52
Medium	43.9	41	47
Sugar, granulated, 1kg (b)	25.4	24	27
Instant coffee per 4 oz	72.2	67	84
Tea, per ¼ lb			
Higher priced	20.0	19	21
Medium priced	17.2	15½	19
Lower priced	16.1	14½	17½

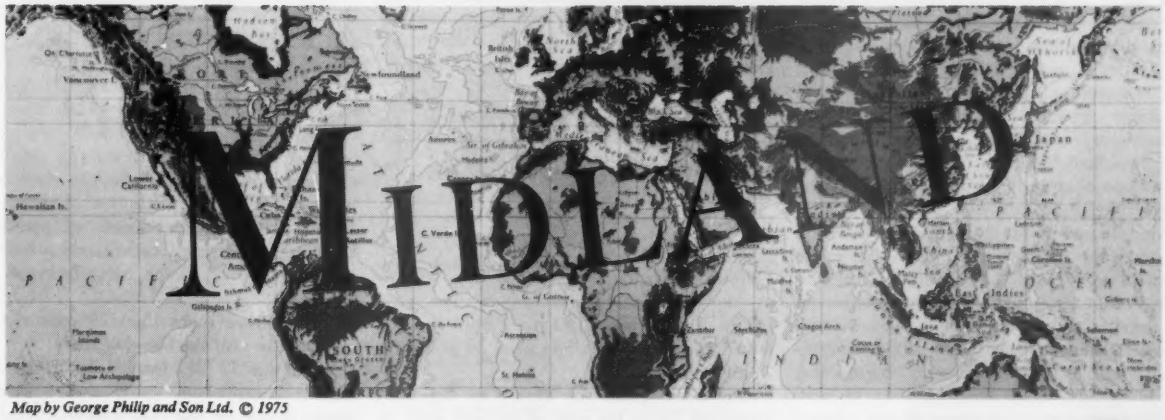
* Or Scottish equivalent.
† Insuffient or no quotations.
(a) Imported chilled beef discontinued from January 1976.
(b) Quantity changed from October 1976 onwards.

Source: Department of Employment

Credit for Spain.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £1 million line of credit which Midland Bank has made available to Banco Hispano Americano, Spain. The loan will enable Spanish manufacturers to place orders for UK capital plant.

Contact: John Walker, Manager Export Finance
Telephone: 01-606 9944 ext. 5258.



Map by George Philip and Son Ltd. © 1975

Midland Bank International

Midland Bank Limited, International Division, 60 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3BN. Tel: 01-606 9944, Telex 888401.

ENCIRCLE TI 422A ON PAGE 606 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Home exhibitions

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

New products at Scottish Engineering Show

'A surprising range of new and improved, products is on view at the Scottish Engineering Exhibition in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall, 1-5 March,' say the organisers, Scottish Industrial and Trade Exhibitions Ltd.

There is plentiful evidence of innovation and the perpetuation of Britain's record in high quality engineering in the machine tool, tooling, welding equipment electricals, industrial plastics and safety equipment sectors. In the new special engineering subcontracting section companies offering services to the engineering industry are on display. The big rewards in the offshore oil market – native companies picked up about half the contracts in the British sector of the North Sea over the past two years – are also expected to generate high interest.

The opening ceremony on 1 March was performed by Sir Monty Finniston, until recently chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

Kelvin Hall, which is less than 10 minutes by road from the centre of Glasgow, is expected to draw a bigger quotient of overseas visitors this year. The recent success of several Scottish engineering companies in the export market is being taken as a pointer to further overseas orders.

The growing value of computer-aided techniques in high quality engineering is highlighted in a seminar to be held in conjunction with the exhibition.

Members of the staff of the government's National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, are conducting the seminar. There has been an encouraging response from the many companies represented at the exhibition.

The three main subjects are: Computer links between design and manufacture; Producing appropriate tapes for numerical control machines; and Planning and estimating.

Further information: circle 101

Largest UK engineering exhibition planned

Final arrangements have now been completed to stage Machpro 78 – International Machine Tool and Production Engineering Exhibition – at the National Engineering Centre, Birmingham, from 30 April-6 May 1978.

The organisers say that the major event will allow sufficient space to accommodate the largest international machine tool and engineering exhibition ever to be staged in the United Kingdom. Although machine tools will represent a most important segment of exhibitor presentation the additional hall areas available will include general machinery and equipment used for the fabrication and processing of materials in many aspects of the engineering industry.

All but one of the halls at the NEC will be used for Machpro 78. The announcement of Machpro 78 has already attracted interest from manufacturers in many countries who recognise the practicability of unrestricted presentation at a major UK-based international machine tool and engineering exhibition.

The organisers of Machpro 78 are offering an optional uniform module system of stand fitting designed to present machinery and equipment to full advantage while keeping down costs. Equally important is the design and layout of this centrally situated facility which enables easy access to hall areas whereby superior methods may be utilised for the in-put and pull-out of exhibitors heavy equipment. Contractual organisation of machinery installations will allow ample periods for setting up and testing of exhibitors equipment.

Full brochure details, floor plans and application forms for space are available from the organisers and inquiries may be made to: Machpro 78 Exhibitions for Industry Ltd, 157 Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey. (Tel. Oxted (08833) 4371)

Further information: circle 102

Fashion fair: 'Best ever'

Following two highly successful appearances at the National Exhibition Centre, the British International Fashion Fair will be held again at Birmingham from 30 March to 2 April.

Commenting on the results of the sales campaign up to the end of the first week in February, the organiser, Miss Rita Jenkins said:

'The spring appearance of the 1977 British International Fashion Fair looks like being the most brilliant and successful so far. Eighty per cent of the space has already been taken up and I am dealing with a daily-increasing flood of inquiries. Already, we have a much wider range of merchandise than on any previous occasion – including a much larger and more impressive section of the more expensive and sophisticated clothes. We have noteworthy representation from abroad and the volume of buyer-inquiries is building up rapidly. It is clear that the National Exhibition Centre is proving to be a very popular venue – expecially with overseas visitors. All in all – it looks as if the March-April appearance will be the best ever.'

By that date 170 companies had reserved their stands at the spring appearance of British International Fashion Fair – together with an additional 36 companies in Leatherwear International – which will be held alor.gside Fashion Fair. The total area available is 6,000m² – set in a gross area of 11,500m² in Hall No. 2 at the NEC. The exhibition will, as usual, be built around a central garden-lawn floral feature.

Overseas representation in the exhibition is extensive – with companies from Finland, Sweden, United States, Federal German Republic, Irish Republic, Netherlands, Austria and India.

A fashion show will be presented during the four days of the fashion fair. The fashion show will be sponsored by Dunbar Fur Simulations and Coty Ltd and produced by Nigel Lithgow. It will be presented by the Clothing Export Council of Great Britain.

The week of 28 March to 3 April will be designated as British Jubilee Fashion Week – during which Britain will present to the world's fashion buyers a vast spectrum of ready-to-wear fashion. Throughout the country, major department stores, fashion stores and boutiques will be co-operating under the leadership of the Clothing Export Council of Great Britain in the promotion of British Jubilee Fashion Week.

Further information: circle 103

Autoquip will be 'big currency earner'

Autoquip '77 is tipped as the show most likely to fulfil the prediction that the new Wembley Conference Centre will become a big foreign currency earner, say its organisers (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders).

Buyers from more than 20 countries are expected to visit the five-day show.

Autoquip '77 (28 March-1 April) the automotive components, parts and accessories show, is one of the first exhibitions at the Wembley centre. Its move from the Cunard Hotel in West London was decided by the rise in the number of exhibitors from 50 in 1975 and 75 last year to more than 120 this year, and would-be exhibitors are still asking to be squeezed in.

Further information: circle 104

Reclamation exhibition may help reduce imports

Mounting interest in reclamation is helping to boost the number of exhibitors at the International Reclamation and Disposal Exhibition (National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham from 12 to 16 September).

Held every four years, the IRDE is sponsored by *Materials Reclamation Weekly*. The last exhibition was at Olympia in 1973.

The exhibition will have an international flavour. Exhibitors include companies from the United States, Germany, France, Italy and from several Far Eastern countries. Being demonstrated will be giant waste-paper handling equipment, metal crushers, automatic baling machines, hydraulic scrap grabs and lifting gear, car flatteners, water treatment devices, refuse collection vehicles, etc.

Much of the exhibition will be devoted to the collection, reclamation and re-use of paper. According to IRDE director Ian Cooper, Britain imported over 100,000 tons of waste paper last year. 'This at a time when the Government has been exhorting us all to try and reduce our import bill.'

Further information: circle 105

Freight show

An exhibition covering international freighting services and equipment will take place at the Metropole Exhibition Hall, Brighton, from 16 to 18 November.

'Freight 77' is believed to be the first show of its kind in the UK since 1971 and is being organised by Maclean-Hunter, publishers of *International Freighting Weekly*, *Airtrade*, and *Packaging News*. All types of freighting operations by air, rail, road and sea will be on show, as will the many services of those involved in forwarding, overseas marketing, and packing. A special section will feature packaging for export markets.

During the first two days there will also be a conference with the theme being: 'Growth markets – overcoming the problems'. This will take the form of an open forum style discussion, with providers and users of freighting services making brief speeches and the delegates left the maximum time for discussing issues.

Further information: circle 106

Labex lecture

Sir Bernard Lovell will deliver the 1977 Labex Lecture on 8 March, the second day of Labex International 77 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

An experienced interpreter of advances in science and technology, Sir Bernard will speak on 'The measurement of the universe.'

The Labex Lecture is an integral part of Labex International 77 which is being held for the first time at the National Exhibition Centre, from 7 to 11 March. The exhibition covers scientific instrumentation, laboratory equipment and supplies.

Further information: circle 107

Exhibition area increased

Within five weeks of the exhibition floor plan for Communications 78 being published, more than half the display area has been booked, adding up to more than the total for the whole of last year's exhibition.

Tony Davies, chairman of the Communications 78 committee, says that the size of stands being booked by previous international and UK exhibitors already shows an average increase of 105 per cent, some have taken stands up to four times bigger. The exhibition area is now being increased to the maximum of 10,300m² (3,678m² in 1976). Mr Davies predicts a 'full-house' long before the event takes place in April next year.'

Communications 78 will be a complete communications equipment and systems event, covering the growth areas of public and private telecommunications; fixed and mobile radio communications for all sea, land and air applications; and the complete world of defence communications. It has the support, for the first time, of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the world telecommunications authority representing 151 governments, and the active involvement of Post Office Telecommunications.

An integral conference is again being organised by the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) but, for the first time, in association with the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers (IERE) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) through both the UKRI Section and the IEEE Communications Society.

Further information: circle 108

CBI conference

The CBI is to hold its first national conference in the Brighton Centre on 14 to 15 November.

Tony Hewison, director of Resort and Conference Services, says that the centre has been chosen because of its capacity and facilities for the 2,500 to 3,000 delegates expected.

'It is a tribute to Brighton and the town's investment it has made for the future,' he said.

Further information: circle 109

Offshore risks debated

Keeping Britain's offshore oil and gas operations free from disasters and breakdowns is the main theme of a conference to be opened in April by the Minister of State for Energy, Dr Dickson Mabon.

The conference will be held under the chairmanship of Mr G. P. Smedley of Lloyds Register of Shipping, at the Metropole Hotel, Brighton 20 to 21 April, during the first two days of the Offshore Repair and Maintenance Exhibition (R and M 77), organised by Maclean-Hunter, publishers.

Subjects will include corrosion, the case for and against 'do it yourself' maintenance or subcontracting to specialist organisations, systems for spare parts stocking, and research into equipment and component failure.

The programme for the second day will include the latest techniques of underwater inspection, site location and preparation, and a discussion on the merits of manned versus unmanned submersibles, and diving practice.

Further information: circle 110

Exhibitions in brief

Antiques fair: Antiques lent by the Queen and other members of the Royal Family will be on view at the Grosvenor House, London, Antiques Fair from 8 to 18 June. Loans from other collections will also be on view.

Silver Jubilee events: To mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the Antiquarian Book Fair, to be held at the Europa Hotel, London, from 15 to 17 June, will feature an exhibition 'Drake, The World Encompassed' for the quatercentenary of his circumnavigation of the world. The fair will offer a choice of some 25,000 books, manuscripts, maps and prints.

Brighton is to hold for the first time a similar fair for rare book collectors at the Hotel Metropole from 27 to 29 October.

North-east event: Newcastle upon Tyne stages its own Business Equipment Exhibition from 29 to 31 March.

Gosforth Park Hotel is the venue and some 30 companies will be exhibiting. The organisers are Premier Exhibitions, Premier House, Daisy Bank Road, Cheltenham, GL53 9QQ, tel. (0242) 56738.

Intershop: The shop and display equipment industry's 20th official annual exhibition, at Olympia, London from 1 to 4 May will feature the latest equipment, materials and systems for evaluation and comparison by retailers, display managers, designers, shopfitters, architects and hoteliers.

Appointment: Industrial and Trade Fairs Ltd (ITF) has been appointed by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) to assist with the organisation of the technical exhibition forming part of the first European Offshore Petroleum Conference and Exhibition, which will take place at Earls Court, London from 24 to 27 October 1978.

ITF's own Offshore International Exhibition and Conference will not be staged in 1978.

New products

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in these sections, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Emergency power supplies

A range of self-contained emergency supply systems designed to provide up to 200, 500 and 1000VA of a.c. electrical power, for up to three hours, is announced by Avel-Lindberg Ltd. The systems can be installed to cover almost any situation where there is life dependence on electrical power, or where essential communications or process control instrumentation must be protected from transient supply changes as well as total breaks. Hospitals, airports, industrial process plant, data handling and computer centres, public utilities and centres for emergency services etc, are some general areas of application.

A complete system, assembled in a single robust sheet steel cabinet, comprises a static inverter, battery bank, battery charger, automatic changeover switching, and operational status instrumentation etc. The types of basic unit selected and the way they are interconnected will depend on the degree of priority of the load. System configurations include no-break, float-charge, standby, and redundant inverter modes of operation.

Further information: circle 111

Air traffic control station for small airfields

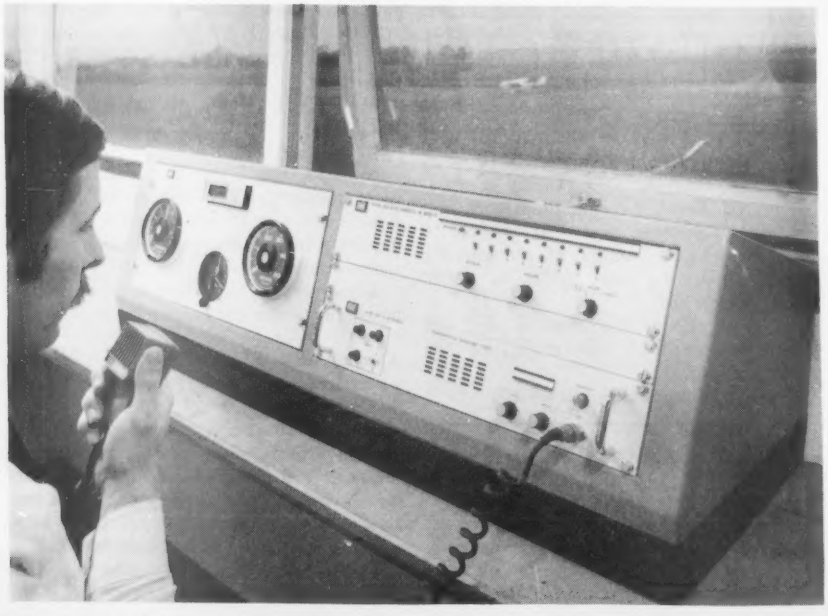
Equipment for providing an air traffic control station for small airports and airfields has been introduced by Park Air Electronics Ltd, Peterborough.

Installation of the equipment – which is mains or battery powered – involves only the positioning of the aerial and anemometer unit. The desk-top console provides the operator with instant information on airfield meteorological conditions and with radio communications on the allocated ground/air frequency. The equipment has a range of 200 miles and meets the latest 25kHz channelling recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Wind velocity and direction indicators, a battery operated digital clock and a digital readout altimeter for QFE and QNH are embodied on one of the two panels. Space is available for optional additional facilities, including VOR and NDB monitors and a crash button (for siren), or a special crash panel for communications with emergency services.

Further information: circle 112

A new console for small airfields.



Sabre radio telephone.

Mobile radio telephone

Flexibility is provided by the Sabre radio telephone developed by a British company, Nolton Communications Ltd, Cheshunt, Herts. It can be used in a vehicle, in the open, in the office – or taken home.

When plugged into a vehicle socket, the Sabre is powered by the car battery and its own internal battery is under charge. Away from the vehicle it automatically changes from the external to the internal battery, loudspeaker and aerial. A desk adaptor allows the system to be readily transferred to home or office so that continuous contact can be maintained.

The AM radio frequency power output of the Sabre is 10W when working from a vehicle power supply and 5W when operating from the integral 9.6-volt rechargeable battery. The FM power output is 25W mobile and 10-12W in the personal mode.

Further information: circle 113

Second generation infrared pyroelectric vidicon

English Electric Valve Co Ltd, announce a new camera tube, the high resolution Pyroelectric Vidicon Type P8092.

The P8092 is of standard 1 inch Vidicon size and is sensitive to infrared radiation from 1.8μm to 1000μm with optimised performance in the 8 to 14μm band. The tube when used with a high performance lens can resolve increments in scene temperature of less than 0.2°C and has a resolution capability of 300 TV lines.

The new Pyroelectric Vidicon forms the basis of uncooled, low cost, thermal viewing systems with multiple applications. These systems have the ability to detect and see in night and day through camouflage, smoke and local high light intensities.

Further information: circle 114

Underwater diver transport vehicle

Aquabatic underwater diver transport vehicle.

The Aquabatic – an underwater diver transport vehicle similar in shape to a toboggan – has been designed to carry divers and their equipment to the sea bed and back.

The machine is propelled by an electric motor powered by two or four batteries with a duration underwater of up to 2½ hours. A special safety cut-out has been installed on the motor which is operated by a magnetic switch, activated by a small magnet attached to a cord round the diver's neck. In the event of the diver being separated from the machine the motor will automatically stop and prevent a riderless vehicle running out of control.

Built of glass reinforced plastic, the Aquabatic can carry instrumentations ranging from a simple compass to sophisticated decompression meters and can be fitted to carry extra air tanks, cameras, lighting equipment. Should the diver get into trouble an emergency air cylinder releases air into the nose section and, by displacing water, will give the machine an upward thrust. It can be adapted for commercial applications, under-sea surveys, oceanography and has many other possible applications. The machine is designed to operate at depths of 45.7m, (150 ft) although this can be extended with certain modifications.

Further information: circle 115

Diesel-powered inflatable personnel carrier

The RI25 fast personnel carrier is said to be the world's first diesel powered rigid inflatable. The boat is fast, stable and suitable for use in most sea conditions, including surf and over falls. As a combined operations boat it is ideal for crash rescue, for use as a diving tender or for shallow water patrolling.

The makers have designed the vessel around the engine to exploit all the benefits of diesel operation. The turbo-charged 150 hp, four-cylinder engine combines with water jet drive and a Renato Levi-designed hull to give a top speed of 25 knots and excellent rough water manoeuvrability.

Conventional outboards can also be fitted to exploit the hull's 40 knot potential. The RI25 has a length of 27 ft 9 in, a beam of 10 ft 3 in and a draft of 1 ft 6 in. Even without the easily removable flotation tube which has seven buoyancy chambers, the hull is safe and seaworthy.

Further information: circle 116

RI25 diesel powered personnel carrier.

Writing boards for pens

A range of wall-mounted writing display boards for felt-tip coloured pens from Teaching Wall Systems Ltd, Stump Lane, Chorley, consists of specially-manufactured double-sided plastic laminate boards with a non-absorbent easy-clean surface.

Any kind of water-based felt-tip pen can be used.

Further information: circle 117

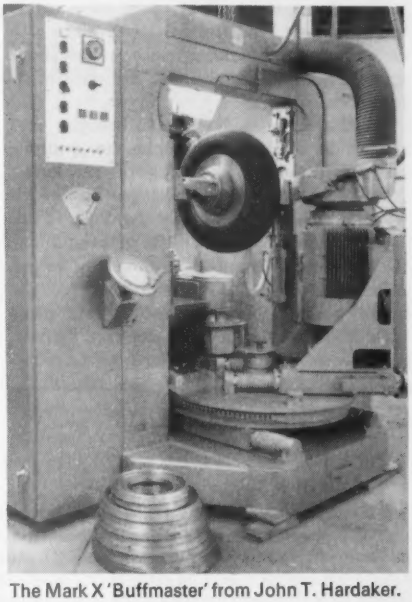
For tyre re-tread industry

A fully automated tyre buffing machine for the tyre re-tread industry has been developed by John T. Hardaker Ltd, Bradford.

Its features include complete automation, template control, a range of 10 in to 16 in, hydraulic traverse systems, controlled depth of cutting, variable bead width facility and auto safety shutters.

It is said to have a high production rate – the full buff process being carried out in 30 seconds.

Further information: circle 118



The Mark X 'Buffmaster' from John T. Hardaker.

To exploit pack security market

P. P. Payne's Strapping Division, Nottingham, has launched a range of self-adhesive carton sealing tapes, with the aim of increasing its share of tne UK pack security market.

The new products enable the firm to provide a complete system for outer carton closure. They are made from an extra tough filmic material in two colours, have weatherproof, moistureproof qualities and resist acids, alkalis and solvents. Payne says their applications range from the sealing of cartons stored in deep freeze to the moisture sealing of pharmaceutical products used in tropical climates.

The new tapes are available in 38mm and 50mm widths, in different lengths, on 3-inch diameter coils.

Further information: circle 119

Technology news

Hastings radio should help ships

Ships off the south coast will now have better worldwide communications, due to the opening of a new Post Office radio station.

The station, Hastings Radio, at Fairlight, East Sussex, completes a chain of stations from the Thames Estuary to Land's End that serves one of the busiest sea lanes in the world. It is one project in a five-year, £210 million plan to expand Britain's communication links beyond her shores.

The expenditure forms part of a £900 million-a-year investment programme – to expand and modernise telecommunications services both within the UK and with other countries.

Hastings Radio has been brought into service in a Post Office plan to improve communications with ships of all kinds, from yachts to super-tankers, in British waters. Under the scheme the Post Office is to provide a total of 22 radio stations, 13 of them remotely-controlled round Britain's coastline, giving reliable, high-quality radiotelephone service at VHF (very high frequency). They can be used by any vessel with VHF radio located up to about 80 km (50 miles) from the radio station.

The short-range 'robot' stations operate from the Post Office's 11 medium-range coast radio stations which are manned and cover a range of up to 320km (200 miles).

The new Sussex radio station is controlled from North Foreland medium-range station at Broadstairs, Kent. The stretch of coast it covers fills the gap between the areas covered by the VHF services provided directly from North Foreland and from Niton Radio – the medium-range station on the Isle of Wight.

In service continuously, the new station broadcasts messages, weather forecasts and gale warnings simultaneously with its parent station – which also controls Thames Radio, covering the Thames Estuary.

Customers wishing to contact shipping through the new station should ask their local telephone operator for Ship's Telephone (or Telegram) Service, give the name of the station, Hastings Radio, and its telephone number – Thanet 20592. Radiotelephone calls between the UK and ships of any nationality cost 81p for three minutes (VAT extra).

Clean electroplating

Electroplating in an advanced form at Albright and Wilson Ltd, of Oldbury. The Alecra 3 chromium plating process is seen here during the chromium plating of pen cases which are mounted on racks and then immersed in the plating solution. It is much cleaner than conventional chrome plating. Apart from a major reduction in the toxic hazard, Alecra 3 is claimed to have improved covering power, high corrosion resistance and to reduce plating rejects due to the total absence of burning. The process is now already being used under licence in many countries.

Further information: circle 120

Computer for hull design

Appledore Shipbuilders Ltd of Devon have become the first British shipbuilders to use a computer-based design system for arriving at the most effective hull form for a particular ship type. This service has been provided by the British Ship Research Association in Tyne and Wear for a 2,500 tonnes cargo ship being built by Appledore for Commodore Shipping.

It is based on the Foran system offered by BSRA as part of a total hull form design and production definition service. The latter incorporates BSRA's Britships system for numerical control in steelwork manufacture and Foran hull design modules developed by Spain's leading firm of naval architects, Sener Tecnica Industrial Y Naval S.A. with whom BSRA entered into an agreement, a year ago.

BSRA has also developed a refinement of its Queen's Award-winning Britships system for the computer-controlled cutting of steelwork for shipbuilding.

Called the geometrical on-line definition system, Gold for short, it is an advanced version of a numerical control processor used to produce computer tapes for steelwork profiling and marking.

Further information: circle 121

Ultra clean garments

The presence of sodium even in minute quantities can make a semiconductor completely useless. So maintaining a high standard of cleanliness is a major problem in the electronics industry.

Now, Micro-Image Technology Ltd has broadened its services to manufacturers of electronics with the introduction of Ultracleaning.

Using techniques developed for the processing and packaging of ultra pure chemicals, MIT is now able to offer a complete service for the washing, rinsing, drying and packing of clean room garments.

The Ultracleaning Service can operate in two ways. Garments supplied by customers or purchased from MIT are processed on a weekly basis – which includes a minor repair service. Alternatively garments are supplied and processed by MIT on rental basis.

Further information: circle 122

Flame retardant panelling

Arborite Ltd of Ealing, decorative laminate manufacturers, have used a chipboard processed by Trade Coaters (Retroflame) Ltd to produce a laminated panel which is highly flame-retardant.

Arborite (flamesafe), – which meets the highest BS standard of flame-retardancy demanded by the building regulations, is bonded to caberboard (from Scottish Timber Products Ltd) which has been treated by Trade Coaters' vacuum impregnation technique. Backed with Arborite's backing board and a suitable adhesive the panel provides high flame-retardancy.

The composite panel has all the versatility of a normal chipboard based product, and can be routed, drilled and tongued-and-grooved. Arborite can supply flame-retardant laminates in all of their extensive range of plain colours, graphics and woodgrains.

Further information: circle 123

Two mock offices five minutes after a fire was started in each. The unit on the left has been Retroflame treated with an Arborite-clad panel in Malaya teak.

Automatic gas monitors – a way of helping to avoid explosions

For some years the National Research Development Corporation has been active in promoting the development and commercial manufacture of gas detecting instruments, which are now particularly relevant in view of the recent gas explosions.

Gas is such a widely-used fuel that hazardous situations due to leaks are bound to arise occasionally. A relatively inexpensive gas monitoring instrument can provide protection by giving early warning of gas build-up in time for the gas supply to be shut off for people nearby to be evacuated. The instrument can be arranged to shut off the gas automatically.

A number of British manufacturers now offer both battery-powered and mains-operated gas monitors, many using technology licensed or financially supported by NRDC, based on original research at the Safety in Mines Research Establishment. Typically, a gas monitor will constantly check for gas and give an alarm when the concentration has reached about one fifth of the 'lower explosive limit'. Thanks to modern electronics, such equipment can cost under £100 – and one firm which manufactures a wide range of such instruments is Neotronics Ltd, of Stansted, Essex.

Further information: circle 124

Correct speech makes the bear smile

At a special school for deaf children in Cambridge, a computerised system recently developed by the Cambridge University department of engineering is being used. It can help deaf children by enabling them to 'see' the sounds they make. The child's sound is shown in the form of a line on the television screen. He has to match his line with a target line which represents the sound as it should be made. To provide an added encouragement for the younger child, the face of the teddy bear will smile when the two lines coincide. A less successful attempt will produce a grimace. Vowel sounds can also be included.

Further information: circle 125

Mini submarine

Inspection work in the offshore industry will soon be carried out by a miniature, unmanned submarine fitted with TV cameras which has been designed as the first part of a project jointly funded by BOC Ltd and the Ship and Marine Technology Requirements Board of the Department of Industry. The assembly and testing of a prototype has already begun.

Officially termed an unmanned submersible inspection vehicle, the prototype submarine and its support equipment will be built this year by the BOC's advanced projects group.

The design began at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, and BOC's team will be making use of their experience and involving university personnel as consultants.

The electrically powered submarine will operate with an umbilical from a self contained surface package consisting of a generator and launch and recovery systems. Its design has purposely been kept simple.

With a two camera video system, acoustic transponder navigation and powered by five variable speed thrusters, the submersible is a general purpose vehicle which can be tailored for specific tasks such as pipeline inspection and salvage work.

Further information: circle 126

Inspecting track at 125 mph

With the advent of high-speed trains, obtaining paths for track recording vehicles on British Rail's more intensively-used lines has become increasingly difficult because of the limitation on the recording speed – 20 mph in the case of some vehicles. Yet periodic measurement of track geometry and assessment of its ride quality is the key to the best use of maintenance resources and British Rail needed a track recording vehicle capable of much more accurate measurements than previously possible and at the same time able to operate at speeds up to 125 mph (200km/h).

The problem has been solved by the development of the high-speed track recording coach which hitches a ride behind any scheduled passenger train and measures the quality of the track during the journey. During the first two months of scheduled running, it measured 12,500 miles (20,000km) of track at speeds up to 132 mph (211km/h). Probably the only test coach of its kind in the world capable of working at these speeds, it is intended to record 80,000 miles (128,000km) of track each year.

Designed to supplement the regular patrolling of track by trained inspection staff, the coach's high-speed capability overcomes the problems experienced when trying to fit existing recording vehicles in between normal passenger and freight trains.

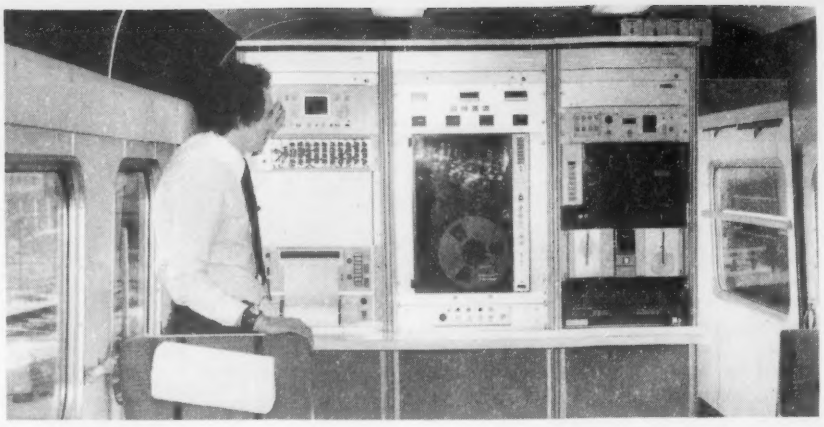
The electronic systems on-board measure and record during the journey 12 different factors which indicate the condition of the track. One system, for example, measures the distance between the rails to an accuracy of just over one-eighth of an inch, even when running at 125 mph.

If the computer system detects any major irregularity, it fires a paint gun which marks the location on the track for attention by the local maintenance team.

At the end of each run, the measurements recorded are analysed so that the quality of the track can be assessed and maintenance programmes planned.

The high-speed test coach was designed for British Rail's Chief Civil Engineer at the Railway Technical Centre, Derby, and will work throughout the BR network. This vehicle, together with BR's ultrasonic test train, whose performance is being improved by computer analysis equipment and which carries out similar inspections looking for hidden defects in the metal of the rails, combined with the systematic track patrols, will ensure that British Rail's track is maintained to the highest possible standards at a minimum cost.

British Rail is confident that the two systems offer a complete automatic track inspection package likely to be of considerable interest to railways throughout the world. BR, through its consultancy company, Transmark, jointly with the Harwell Laboratories, who have developed part of the automatic analysis equipment on the ultrasonic test train, is now taking steps to sell the package throughout the world.



Part of the high speed track recording coach's data processing equipment.

Reading University links with colleges of technology

A scheme which, it is hoped, will improve the quality of engineering man-power has now been started by Reading University. The engineering and cybernetics department of the university is setting up a formal link with local colleges of technology, in order to make it easier to transfer students between degree and diploma courses.

Having chosen engineering as a career, the student's education can now be a gradual process rather than one which changes abruptly at entry to university. The proposed system considers the curriculum and progress of students from entry to ordinary national diploma through five years to final degree, or higher national diploma qualification. After entering the OND course with a suitable number of 'O' levels, their progress depends on their overall performance during a period of two years. It is possible to progress either to a degree or a HND programme, but by design, the syllabus for both of these programmes is similar during the first two terms so that, students on either stream can transfer.

Polymer engineering award scheme

An award scheme aimed at providing the polymer industry with well-trained engineers has been launched by the Polymer Engineering Directorate of the Science Research Council and the Rubber and Plastics Processing Industry Training Board.

The award scheme provides financial assistance to graduate engineers who wish to take part in a one year applied polymer engineering postgraduate course at the Institute of Polymer Technology, Loughborough University, starting in October 1977. It also provides assistance to companies who sponsor engineering graduates on the course.

The education and training provided by the scheme consists of two parts – attendance at the applied polymer engineering course followed by job training.

The Loughborough course covers stress analysis, heat transfer and fluid flow, control theory and industrial engineering. These are then applied to practical problems of design, operation and control of fabrication processes, and design and performance of load-bearing polymer products. Project work and visits to processing companies will form an important part of the course.

The scheme will apply to newly graduated engineers, and company sponsored graduates.

It is felt that while polymer engineering is concerned with all the processes involved in converting polymer materials into manufactured articles there are remarkably few professional engineers in the industry.

Further information: circle 127

Courses on flow measurement

Two five-day courses on the principles and practice of flow measurement are being held by the Department of Industry's National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow. The first, on 7 to 11 March 1977, is now fully booked. A repeat course has been arranged for 9 to 13 May.

This course is for engineers, plant designers, plant operators and anyone concerned with purchase, use and calibration of flowmeters. It is for the ordinary engineer who wants to know how to choose the right flowmeter for his particular needs and how to get the best out of the equipment when he has it. No previous knowledge of this subject is required.

Practical sessions will be an important feature of the course. Course members will be able to participate in testing and calibration of flowmeters, using NEL's comprehensive facilities. Places will be limited so individual attention can be given to course members. Early registration is advised.

Further information: circle 128

Publications

China: business opportunities. A business study by Metra Consulting. (277 pages. Published by the Financial Times Ltd, 10 Bolt Court, Fleet Street, London EC4A 3HL. 1976. £60.00 plus postage and packing. ISBN 0 900671 66 1.) Since the early 70s, when the People's Republic of China emerged from its previous isolation and began to play an active role in the political, economic and diplomatic arena of the world's great powers, its potential magnitude as a market for major capital and other significant products has become the subject of increasing interest by many trading nations. The basis of any analysis of this nature is accurate, up-to-date and detailed information. The author of this study, Geoffrey Hemy, has endeavoured to present as much of the available knowledge about the Chinese market as is possible from the somewhat restricted sources currently available. An introductory note on sources outlines the difficulties involved in the collection and compilation of meaningful information: however, despite these constraints the volume does include a great deal of essential knowledge with which to assess the possibilities of the Chinese market. The business study consists of 14 chapters, the first two of which comprise the introduction and a summary of the report respectively. Chapter three concentrates on geographical topics; climate; topography; and population. This chapter also outlines both the administrative system, and the methodology used for evaluating the standard of living. The post war development of the economy is narrated in chapter four, although only a few paragraphs cover the 1945-49 period. This, of course, is consistent with the scope of the work, which is devoted to the Revolution and its present day consequences for marketing opportunities. Chapter four, therefore divides the post 1949 development of the economy into those phases which have resulted in the present reflexes which govern the acquisition of foreign technology. The origins of the Chinese attitudes towards foreign trade are fully explored in this chapter. The main body of this survey comprises chapters five to 12 in which the recent progress of the major branches of the economy are described, together with an examination of their particular strengths and weaknesses. In particular, chapter five explores the development of the industrial infrastructure, with especial attention being given to the various transport systems. Additional notes on information dissemination through the mass media, together with a final section on telecommunications conclude this chapter. Current oil resources, exploration activities, present and potential oil reserves are examined in chapter six: other sources of energy are considered in chapter seven. Chapter eight assesses the iron and steel industries while other minerals and building materials are dealt with in chapter nine. Virtually all aspects of engineering are itemised and discussed in the following chapter; from machine tools and railway equipment to radio and electronics and consumer appliances. Chapter 11 presents an extensive survey of oil refining, petrochemicals and other chemicals, including fertilisers. The manufacture of consumer products is focused upon in chapter 12 and consists of sections covering textiles, timber and paper, and food processing. The final two chapters then proceed to evaluate the prospects of trade with China: chapter 13 deals with the theory and organisation of foreign trade and tabulates the volume of trade by both country and commodity; while chapter 14 sets out the requirements for the successful conduct of business within the country. Specifically, this last chapter attempts to convey an impression of the nature of trade with the People's Republic as well as endeavouring to establish the criteria whereby profitability in transactions can be achieved. Eight appendices enlarge the scope of the publication by including a number of features which provide some insights into the nature of this vast nation. For example, appendix 1a assembles most of what is known about the catastrophic Tangshan earthquake of July 1976 and prognosticates on its possible effects on both Chinese industry and foreign trade. Another example is found in appendix three, which, in the author's words, 'guesstimates' the population changes over recent years, including average age distribution and birth and death rates. Also included in this appendix is a breakdown of major area and city population indices: all this information being presented in tabular form. Other appendices deal with the system of people's communes; current government inspired motivation slogans currently in use; small scale industry; useful addresses; and a bibliography of principal sources of information, including items from the USA, the USSR, the UK, Japan and China itself. This business report provides a detailed and up-to-date compilation of previously scattered and all too often fragmented material. It includes much tabulated data which helps to clarify the complex quantitative information which, because of the course of recent Chinese international relations, has not previously been readily available.

Marine Oil Pollution: the international legal regime relating to the prevention of marine-based oil pollution, by D. W. Abecassis. (123 pages. Department of Land Economy Occasional Paper no. 6. University of Cambridge, 19 Siver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EP. 1976. £1.80 ISSN 0306-2384.) This paper is one of a series designed to further research into those factors; legal, institutional, economic and social, which together affect land use and development. In particular, the series is concerned with the study of the management of natural resources within the above mentioned categories: the whole subject can be subsumed under the term 'Land Economy'. This volume is concerned with one of the most vital areas of land economy, namely the sea. More specifically, the author sets out to examine the international legal regime relating to oil pollution of this crucial two-thirds of the earth's surface. The emphasis in this publication is on the legal implications of the prevention and clean-up of oil pollution emanating from both ships and off-shore installations. The subject is dealt with by delineating three aspects of the basic problem: the magnitudes involved; methods of combating pollution; and an evaluation and description of the relevant conventions together with an assessment of their effects. Although this is primarily a legal study, the subject involves many technical considerations; therefore the early chapters in this three part survey present as much technical background as is required to make sense of the juridical aspects of the whole field. The text is completed by a final chapter listing the paper's findings together with a summary of the main specific conclusions and recommendations. The volume concludes with a list of references arranged by author.

Chemical Company Profiles Western Europe. (323 pages. Chemical Data Services, IPC Industries Press Ltd. 1976. £35.) This is the first of a series of company profile directories to be issued for major regions of the world. Chemical companies are examined through information which has been obtained both by direct contact with the companies concerned and by an analysis of published information, including company reports. This new series has resulted from the great interest expressed in the company profile sections of previous surveys prepared on this industry by Chemical Data Services. This first volume of the series covers the member countries of the European Economic Community and European Free Trade Association together with Finland, Greece, Spain and Turkey, and is arranged alphabetically by country and subsequently by company designation. Entries for individual companies quote addresses, telephone, telex and cable information followed by an account of salient historical development. There is a brief statement on the current financial capital position, names of directors, products manufactured and, where appropriate, name and ownership, capital, location and manufacturing activities of subsidiaries and associates (domestic and foreign). The publication concludes with an index listing all companies described in the directory.

Parliament

Monday, 21 February

ECGD

Winston Churchill (Stretford) asked for information on the average cost to the taxpayer of financing goods exported under Export Credits Guarantee Department credit, expressed as a percentage of total production cost.

Mr Meacher answered: 'The major part (about 80 per cent) of goods exported under ECGD guarantees are sold on cash or short credit. The financing of these sales involves no cost to the taxpayer. For the rest, which represents less than 10 per cent of total UK exports, where the sales are financed on extended credit in sterling at the fixed export rates of interest, such finance can be eligible for support under the Refinancing Scheme. The public expenditure then involved will depend on a range of variables including the level of the fixed rate applicable to particular contracts; the level of the agreed rate of return to the banks; the size of contract and length of credit and the overall level of finance provided by the banks from their own resources without refinancing loans. The most recent estimates for the Refinancing Scheme are set out in table 2.4 (Trade, Industry and Employment) on pages 32/3 of Cmnd 6393 'Public Expenditure to 1979-80'. Details for 1975/6 are shown in volume 2: Class IV, Vote 12 of the Appropriation Accounts 1975/6 (pages 69 and 72).'

ECGD insurance for construction projects

Michael Latham (Melton) asked: 'To what factors does the Secretary of State for Trade attribute the decline from £190.8 million to £147.3 million in the total business insured by ECGD under its constructional work policies in 1975-76 compared with 1974-75 and the commensurate decline in premium income from £2.103 million to £1.015 million, in view of the growing interest in construction exports in that period?'

'Constructional works projects are normally large and irregular in occurrence,' said Mr Meacher. 'Comparisons of cover given for single years are not, therefore, very significant. I am not aware of any special factors affecting the 1975-76 figures. It would be wrong to conclude that the trend is declining; figures for 1976-77 are likely to show a substantial increase.'

Mr Latham then asked: 'Why pursuant to the Under-Secretary of State's replies to the honourable member for Melton on 5 July 1976 and 3 February 1977, he initially gave erroneous figures of £44.989 million, £55.997 million, £42.913 million and £18.732 million for the years 1971-72 to 1974-75 inclusive in respect of ECGD insurance for constructional work, when the correct figures were £63.8 million, £17.9 million, £35.4 million, £190.8 million, and £0.466 million, £0.276 million, £0.606 million and £0.715 million were given in respect of ECGD premium insurance in the same period when the correct figures were £0.378 million, £0.521 million, £0.557 million and £2.103 million respectively; why it took him six months to discover these errors and then only revealed them when the honourable member asked a further question; and what steps he is taking to prevent a repetition of such an incident?'

Mr Meacher said: 'The answer on 5 July 1976 gave correct figures for the value of work done under constructional works contracts then covered by ECGD. This appeared to be what the hon. member was asking. The question on 3 February 1977, however, suggested that the hon. member was interested in the new business covered by ECGD under its constructional works policies during certain years. In an endeavour to be as helpful as possible, my answer therefore gave these figures for the years mentioned in both questions.'

Construction opportunities in Middle East

Mr Latham asked for specific examples of action taken by diplomatic posts in: (a) Bahrain, (b) Iran (c) Iraq, (d) Jordan, (e) Kuwait, (f) Lebanon, (g) Qatar, (h) Saudi Arabia, (i) Syria, (j) Egypt, (k) Dubai and (l) Abu Dhabi to meet the recommendations of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of circular OTM 11/76 entitled 'Market Intelligence Opportunities for United Kingdom Construction Firms' of 30 October 1976; and what monitoring procedures have been established.

Mr Meacher answered: 'Since the OTM 11/76 the posts concerned have maintained a good flow of information, particularly market pointers and specific export opportunities. These are circulated immediately to prospective exporters through the computerised Export Intelligence Service. I will write to the hon member informing him of action taken by the specific posts he mentions. But in general I am satisfied that the posts are doing everything they can to implement the requirements of the circular, but if there are ways in which the construction industry considers that the information provided can be further improved I shall be glad to consider them.'

Mr Latham asked why detailed information about UK construction exports to Middle Eastern countries is not collected, and if statistical services would be improved in that regard, in view of the importance of that market.

Mr Meacher said: 'Information on a country basis about payments from overseas to contractors in the UK and to the various professional services engaged in overseas construction work is not collected because this would substantially increase the form-filling burden on the companies and individuals concerned.

'Information about work done by contractors in the Middle East was published in *Trade and Industry* of 15 October 1976 on page 164. More detailed figures for some countries are available from the Department of the Environment.

'The overseas trade statistics classify exports of goods by commodity and not by industry of end use. As many materials used in the construction industry have alternative uses, it is impossible to compile accurate figures considering the many headings involved. Some figures on exports of plant equipment could be produced but the cost of the preparation of this information would exceed normal limits and the results would also be imprecise because of the problem, as with materials, of identification.'

Overseas Project Group

Mr Latham asked: 'What specific arrangements are made by the overseas project group of the British Overseas Trade Board for advising ministers on the selection of firms or groups of firms to pursue particular construction projects overseas; by what actual methods do they seek the agreement of the construction industry to a suitable British team?'

'In the great majority of cases in which the Overseas Projects Group gives assistance, a suitable British team is formed on the initiative of the firms themselves,' said Mr Meacher. 'If the group is required itself to assist with the formation of a suitable team, it consults the relevant representative organisations in the construction industry. If this procedure did not succeed, the group would seek advice from the Construction Exports Advisory Board. To date, it has not been necessary to consult the board.'

Industrial Development Advisory Board

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked: 'How many projects has the Industrial Development Advisory Board been asked to advise on; and on how many occasions has its advice been rejected in each year since its creation?'

Mr Williams gave the information as follows:

Year	No. of projects considered	No. of occasions on which recommendation was declined
1972	6	0
1973	42	0
1974	52	5
1975	74	1
1976	171	0

'In addition there were two occasions, one in 1974 and one in 1975, on which there was a difference of view between the government and the board over the best means of assisting the business,' said Mr Williams.

Beer prices

Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked what steps were being taken to prevent brewers marginally reducing the gravity of their beer and thus increasing their profits through reduction of tax liability.

'I do not consider it necessary to take special steps to prevent this,' replied Mr Maclennan. 'Under the Price Code reductions in taxation must be passed through into prices unless offset by increases in costs. Profit margins are also controlled under the code. My rt hon friend has, however, referred to the Price Commission for investigation the question of the prices and margins in the manufacture and distribution of beer sold by retail for consumption on licensed premises.'

Repayment of advances to BNFL

David Penhaligon (Truro) asked: 'What are the specified circumstances in which sanction may be given under the Nuclear Industry (Finance) Bill, repayment of sums advanced to British Nuclear Fuels Ltd under the terms of agreements entered into by BNFL requiring them to perform services.

Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, replied: 'The purpose of clause 1(2) of the Nuclear Industry (Finance) Bill is to empower the government to guarantee advance payments made to BNFL under contracts for the performance of services. There is no question of the secretary of state sanctioning individual repayments contracted by the company. The government guarantee would be called only in the unlikely event that BNFL were unable to meet a contractual liability to repay any part of the advance payments in cash.

'I am advised that such a contractual liability on BNFL could arise only in the following kind of circumstances:

1 if, after advance payments had been made, a plant was not built, to the extent that these payments had not already been expended.
2 if a working plant were constructed and were

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

not used to reprocess fuel for a customer who had made advance payments, in proportion to these payments, and were used for another customer and earned revenue from which investment could be amortised, a refund to the original customer who had made advance payments could be made out of the earnings. Similarly there could be repayments if the plant were re-financed in such circumstances.

3 if a plant were built but made inoperable, for example, due to fire, proportional repayments would be made out of any insurance monies which were received in respect of the damage.

Contracts for which advance payments are to be guaranteed will be subject to the approval of the government.'

Tuesday, 22 February

Credit agreement with USSR

Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked: 'How much in total has to date been advanced to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics under the terms of the agreement reached in 1975; what percentage does this represent of the loan facility; what rates of interest and loan periods are applicable; and what has been the nature of the contracts financed under this scheme?'

Mr Meacher answered: 'The total value of contracts signed under the 1975 Anglo/Soviet Credit Agreement is £188 million, in respect of which loans supported by HM Government have been entered into to a total of £154 million. This utilises some 20 per cent of the aggregate amount of contracts provided for in the agreement. In accordance with normal practice, rates of interest and loan repayment periods are confidential to the contracting parties. The contracts financed under the scheme have been for heavy capital plant in a variety of industries.'

Mr Neubert also wanted to know from what sources and, where appropriate, at what rates of interest HMG had secured the funds to finance the cheap credit scheme.

'HMG does not raise funds directly to finance exports generally and no particular financing arrangements have been made for exports to the USSR under the 1975 Anglo/Soviet Credit Agreement,' said Mr Meacher. 'The refinancing scheme whereby HMG refinances part of the clearing banks fixed rate lending does not enable identification of particular contracts or of individual overseas countries. The interest rate at which HMG raises funds and the rate at which exports are financed are determined by different factors and are therefore not directly comparable.'

Aviation security

Questions on the cost of aviation security and its recovery from airline users were asked by Mr Neubert.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'As part of its proposals to reduce public expenditure, the government has decided in principle that the total cost of aviation security measures recommended by the Department of Trade under the Protection of Aircraft Act 1973 should be transferred from the taxpayer to the industry from 1 April 1978. The cost of these measures is estimated at £11.8 million for the current financial year and is likely to be about £15 million (at current prices) in 1978-79. This would amount to an average of about 72p for each arriving, or alternatively departing, passenger. Overseas countries which make a charge to airlines for security measures include the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa and Japan. We do not consider that the proposals are in breach of our obligations as a member of the International Civil Aviation Organisation or the European Civil Aviation Conference. Representations against these proposals have been received from United Kingdom airlines and airport authorities, from the International Air Transport Association, the Association of European Airlines and the British Tourist Authority. The aviation trade unions, however, support the proposals.'

Industrial Common Ownership Act

David Steel (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles) asked how many certificates of common ownership enterprise and co-operative enterprise have been issued under section 2 of the Industrial Common Ownership Act 1976.

Mr Cryer answered that the Secretary of State for Industry, had not yet issued any certificates to co-operative enterprises under section 2(2) but he had one case under consideration.

'Certification under section 2(1) of common ownership enterprises is a matter for the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies,' Mr Cryer continued. 'I understand that no such certificates have been issued so far but that there are four cases before the chief registrar in which the applicants have been notified that amendments of rules or, as the case may be, of memorandum and articles, will be necessary before the applications can proceed further.'

'How many requests for grants or loans under the terms of the act have been received?' asked Mr Steel.

'One body has been recognised as relevant under the terms of the act, and another has asked to be recognised,' answered Mr Cryer. 'We are considering with both these bodies the appropriate level of support from public funds for their activities. No other requests for grants or loans have been received.'

Information retrieval services

Adam Hunter (Dunfermline) asked: 'Why has the Department of Industry made funds available for the development of information retrieval services, previously carried out by the Department of Education and Science through the Office of Scientific and Technical Information and now the British Library Research and Development Department?'

Mr Huckfield said: 'My department and the British Library have a common interest in ensuring that adequate facilities are created to meet developing UK requirements for computer-based information retrieval services.'

Alternative sources of energy

Neil Macfarlane (Sutton and Cheam) asked: 'What work on alternatives to the conventional sources of energy in the United Kingdom is being currently assessed by the Department of Industry, whether carried out by the National Research Development Corporation or otherwise?'

'Projects are being sponsored or examined dealing with sodium-sulphur batteries, solar cells, refuse-derived fuel, and wind-energy machines,' said Mr Huckfield. 'The cost to the department in 1977-78 is expected to be about £300,000. The NRDC is involved in projects concerning wind, water, and solar sources of energy; the details are commercially confidential.'

New SI symbols

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection was satisfied that the new SI symbols are not prone to errors of conversion, particularly in the use of zombie boxes (electronic calculators) with consequent danger where high pressures are involved.

Mr Fraser answered: 'One of the reasons for adopting the world-wide system of units (SI) is to remove the problem of conversion of units which UK industry is facing now, and has faced for many years. Any conversion from one system of units into another has always been a potential source of error but the use of electronic calculators probably reduces the chance of errors rather than increasing it. The SI unit for use where high pressures are involved should be carefully chosen and preferably all high pressures should be expressed in the same SI unit, and hence, symbol. In designing new plant there should be no necessity for conversion from SI units since the calculations should be in those units.'

Wednesday, 23 February

European Space Agency

Mrs Helene Hayman (Welwyn and Hatfield) asked what was the outcome of the recent meeting of the Council of the European Space Agency.

Mr Kaufman's reply is published on page 571.

Small firms

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked how many sector working parties mentioned their dissatisfaction with the availability of finance for small firms: and what action was proposed.

Mr Cryer answered: 'Few sector working parties referred specifically in their latest reports to problems over the availability of finance for small firms but many of the general remarks made about the supply and, more prominently, the cost of finance apply particularly to small and medium sized firms. The government's general reaction to these comments is set out in paragraph 8 of the paper "Industrial Strategy: The Government Response" which was placed in the Library on 3 February. The NEDC Committee on Finance for Investment under Sir Eric Roll has been asked to look particularly at problems of finance for small companies.'

Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked what assessment had been made of the effect on small firms of the requirements made upon them by the Price Commission.

Mr Cryer answered: "Though firms of every size are bound by the Price Code, it is estimated that the vast majority of small firms are unaffected by the commission's administrative requirements as their annual sales are below the level at which they are required to keep records of price increases and profit margins. Even those few small firms falling into category III of the Counter Inflation (Prices and Charges) (Information) Order 1970 (SI 1976 No. 1172) are required only to keep appropriate records, not to submit information regularly to the commission.

Textile imports

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked for figures showing on an annual basis over the last 10 years the level of imports, by volume, of textile products, including jute products; and comparable figures for France.

Mr Meacher gave the following available information for yarn, fabrics and made up articles (including clothing):

	UK		France
	Thousand[1] metric tons	£ million cif	Thousand metric tons
1967		262	188
1968		336	225
1969		358	308
1970		380	283
1971		496	340
1972		578	427
1973		827	498
1974	515	1,069	519
1975	502	1,161	524
1976	570	1,561	N/A

[1] Quantity information is not available before 1974

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics and OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade, Series C.

Imports

Mr J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked for information on the value of imported fooa, beverages, tobacco, fuel and basic industrial raw materials as a percentage of the visible import bill for each year since 1970.

Mr Meacher gave the following figures:

IMPORTS OF FOOD, BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, FUELS AND BASIC INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IMPORTS
(Balance of Payments Basis)

	Percentages
1970	46.2
1971	46.1
1972	42.5
1973	40.7
1974	46.2
1975	44.8
1976	45*

* Provisional estimate

Mr Rooker asked for information on the value of total imports and of imports, minus food, beverages, tobacco fuels and basic industrial raw materials, as a percentage of gross domestic product for each year since 1970.

Mr Meacher gave these figures:

IMPORTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP AT FACTOR COST

Percentage

	Total imports (Balance of payments basis)	Total imports minus food, etc (Balance of payments basis)
1970	18.2	9.8
1971	17.4	9.4
1972	17.9	10.3
1973	22.2	13.2
1974	28.7	15.5
1975	23.6	13.0
1976	26*	15*

* Provisional estimate.

Companies Registration Office

Geoffrey Dodsworth (South West Hertfordshire) asked for the total annual cost of running the Companies Registration Office in Cardiff, and the number of people employed there in each grade.

Mr Clinton Davis answered that the total estimated cost of the operation of Companies Registration Office in the calendar year 1976 was £8.7 million, of which £3.4 million is attributed to the Cardiff office. These figures relate to a period of transition and do not reflect the long term relationship between the costs of the Cardiff and London offices. 701 staff were employed at the Cardiff office on 14 February, as follows:

Registrar	16
Senior Principal	1
Principal	2
Senior Executive Officers	5
Higher Executive Officers	16
Executive Officers	56
Clerical Officers	235
Clerical Assistants	205
Paperkeeping Grades	49
Messengerial Grades	28
Photoprinting Grades	74
Typing Grades	18
Telephonists	4
Data Processors	7

Mr Dodsworth asked: 'What is the average delay in the opening of letters containing forms concerning registration at the office and what is the average length of time taken to provide a registration.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'At present, there is an initial delay of five working days in dealing with incoming mail unless the envelope indicates urgency. This delay, which has occurred since late December, results mainly from a seasonal increase in activity and is being eliminated by overtime working.

'The average time required to complete the process of incorporation is 16 working days, which comprises five days for provisional name approval and 11 days for document examination and formal incorporation. This is comparable with the average time required when the work was done in London, despite a significant increase in the rate of company formation.'

'Is the Secretary of State for Trade satisfied with the efficiency of the Companies Registration Office now that it has moved to Cardiff?' asked Mr Dodsworth.

'The transfer of most of the work of Companies Registration Office to Cardiff, which began in April 1976, is now almost complete,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'Arrangements for the staged transfer of the records of 670,000 companies and for dealing with just under 5,000 additional statutory documents each day, concurrently with the introduction of a microfiche search system, have inevitably been complex; nevertheless I believe that inconvenience to the public has been kept to the minimum and that efficiency of the service will be improved as a result of the move.'

Mr Dodsworth asked for a breakdown of the amounts and sources of finance for the office in Cardiff for the latest available annual period.

Mr Clinton Davis told him: 'Total receipts for Companies Registration Office in the calendar year 1976 amounted to £12.3 million, of which fees for incorporation accounted for £2.7 million, for change of name £0.5 million and for annual returns £8.9 million. It is not practicable to provide separate figures for that part of the operation that is carried out in Cardiff.'

Babcock and Wilcox and Herbert Morris

Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked about publication of the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the existing and contemplated merger situation between Babcock and Wilcox Ltd and Herbert Morris Ltd.

Mr Fraser's statement is on page 552.

Thursday, 24 February

National Consumer Council

Jim Callaghan (Middleton and Prestwich) asked from what sources the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection seeks names of people for appointment to the National Consumer Council, nationalised industry consumer councils and other consumer bodies for which he is responsible.

Mr Fraser's answer is on page 553.

Firework statistics

Mr Roberts asked for the firework injury statistics for 1976.

Mr Fraser said: 'Statistics are now available of persons who received treatment at hospitals in England, Scotland and Wales for injuries caused by fireworks during the period 17 October to 13 November 1976. There was an overall decrease in firework injuries treated by hospitals of more than 10 per cent from the previous year, to the lowest number since these records were first kept. Statistics for comparable periods in 1972 and 1968 (1969 for Scotland) show the remarkable reduction in injuries from fireworks which has been achieved over this period:

England and Wales		Scotland	
1968	2,537	1969*	90
1972	1,260	1972	64
1976	663	1976	22

* The first year records were kept.

'The 1976 statistics, together with the figures for comparable periods in the four preceding years, are as follows:

FIREWORK INJURIES IN GREAT BRITAIN
(4-week period in October-November)

	1976	1975	1975	1973	1972
TOTAL	685	766	927	1,249	1,324
PLACE OF ACCIDENT					
1 Family or private party	277	218	272	398	454
2 Public or semi-public party	167	148	144	160	182
3 Casual incident in street etc	160	220	290	448	443
4 Other place	56	69	94	128	100
5 Unspecified place	25	111	127	115	145
TYPE OF FIREWORK					
1 Banger	159	208	237	379	391
2 Rocket	91	89	79	129	132
3 Display firework	89	119	159	294	270
4 Home-made or extracted powder	17	27	31	40	56
5 Other type	119	110	159	139	140
of which:					
5.1 Jumping cracker*	—	26	43	59	53
5.2 Other flyabout	14	27	54	..	..
6 Unspecified type	210	213	262	268	335
SEVERITY OF INJURY					
1 Fatal injury	—	—	—	—	—
2 Detained more than one night	50	46	78	84	96
3 Sufficient to cause absence from work or equivalent	118	96	127	188	147
4 Minor injury	486	602	683	938	1,060
5 Unspecified injury	31	22	39	39	21
AGE GROUP OF INJURED PERSONS					
Over 21	129	120	134	202	174
16-20	47	53	59	78	69
13-16	147	161	194	265	270
Under 13	362	432	540	704	811

* Jumping crackers were not sold in 1976
.. = Not available.

FIREWORK INJURIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
(4-week period in October-November)

	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972
TOTAL	663	728	883	1,186	1,260
PLACE OF ACCIDENT					
1 Family or private party	273	215	267	385	441
2 Public or semi-public party	161	144	137	153	166
3 Casual incident in street etc	154	203	272	422	422
4 Other place	51	65	89	119	95
5 Unspecified place	24	101	118	107	136
TYPE OF FIREWORK					
1 Banger	153	196	228	356	369
2 Rocket	85	83	70	118	129
3 Display firework	89	117	151	280	262
4 Home-made or extracted powder	17	24	29	38	54
5 Other type	119	107	154	137	134
of which:					
5.1 Jumping cracker*	—	26	42	58	51
5.2 Other flyabout	14	25	52	..	..
6 Unspecified type	200	201	251	257	312
SEVERITY OF INJURY					
1 Fatal injury	—	—	—	—	—
2 Detained more than one night	47	43	70	80	91
3 Sufficient to cause absence from work or equivalent	112	93	121	178	143
4 Minor injury	473	572	654	892	1,009
5 Unspecified injury	31	20	38	36	17
AGE GROUP OF INJURED PERSONS					
Over 21	126	114	131	195	167
16-20	47	50	58	74	68
13-16	143	152	184	248	257
Under 13	347	412	510	669	768

* Jumping crackers were not sold in 1976
.. = Not available

FIREWORK INJURIES IN SCOTLAND
(4-week period in October-November)

	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972
TOTAL	22	38	44	63	64
PLACE OF ACCIDENT					
1 Family or private party	4	3	5	13	13
2 Public or semi-public party	6	4	7	7	16
3 Casual incident in street etc	6	17	18	26	21
4 Other place	5	4	5	9	5
5 Unspecified place	1	10	9	8	9
TYPE OF FIREWORK					
1 Banger	6	12	9	23	22
2 Rocket	6	6	9	11	3
3 Display firework	—	2	8	14	8
4 Home-made or extracted powder	—	3	2	2	2
5 Other type	—	3	5	2	6
of which:					
5.1 Jumping cracker*	—	—	1	1	2
5.2 Other flyabout	—	2	2	..	..
6 Unspecified type	10	12	11	11	23
SEVERITY OF INJURY					
1 Fatal injury	—	—	—	—	—
2 Detained more than one night	3	3	8	4	5
3 Sufficient to cause absence from work or equivalent	6	3	6	10	4
4 Minor injury	13	30	29	46	51
5 Unspecified injury	—	2	1	3	4
AGE GROUP OF INJURED PERSONS					
Over 21	3	6	3	7	7
16-20	—	3	1	4	1
13-16	4	9	10	17	13
Under 13	15	20	30	35	43

* Jumping crackers were not sold in 1976.
.. = Not available.

Mechanical Engineering and Machine Tool Requirements Board

Mr Macfarlane asked how many projects were presented to the Mechanical Engineering and Machine Tool Requirements Board in each of the past four years; how many projects were given financial assistance; and what the board's total contribution was in each of the four years.

Mr Buckfield gave the following figures:

Financial years	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
Projects presented	31	42	48	53†
Supported	30	35	28	37†
Board contribution – £000s	4,231	5,495	7,847	8,609*

* Estimated † To 19 February 1977

Notes:
1 Projects to the Board emanate from industrial research establishments, UKAEA, industrial research associations, industrial companies, universities etc, research organisations, learned societies and individuals.
2 The figures given for 'supported' include some projects where the original proposal was modified on approval.
3 Where one proposal comprises a number of associated projects this has been counted as one project only.

National Research Development Corporation

Mr Macfarlane asked for a list of the members of the National Research Development Corporation, and their qualifications for selection.

Mr Huckfield listed the following:

Lord Schon of Whitehaven (Chairman)

Full-time members
Mr W. Makinson (Managing director)
Dr J. C. Cain

Part-time members
Mr F. A. S. Wood
Mr F. J. M. Laver
Mr L. V. D. Tindale
Sir Peter Matthews
Mr C. Jenkins
Professor A. W. Johnson
Professor L. Maunder
Mr J. Gormley (from 1 March 1977)

'My right hon friend appoints as members people with experience in science, technology, industry, finance, administration or the acquisition and disposal of rights in inventions,' said Mr Huckfield.

Assistance for projects in SDAs

Leslie Spriggs (St Helens) asked for details of assistance offered through the Department of Industry to firms considering moving to areas designated as Special Development Areas, or setting up new industrial units in such areas.

Mr Cryer answered that from August 1972 up to 31 December 1976, assistance had been made available under the Industry Act 1972 for projects located in the Special Development Areas of England, Scotland and Wales as follows.

	£000
Section 1	
Payments of regional development grant	366,426
Section 7	
Offers of regional selective assistance (including shipbuilding)	222,739
Section 8	
Offers of selective financial assistance	8,018

Mr Cryer continued: 'These figures are exclusive of assistance made on a national basis to British Leyland and Chrysler Ltd who have factories in the Special Development Areas.

'Details of selective assistance offered and regional development grants paid to individual companies are published regularly in *Trade and Industry* in accordance with the arrangements announced by my predecessor on 31 July 1974.'

Mr Clarke asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would be proposing any renegotiation of the government's scheme of financial assistance to Chrysler (UK) Ltd in the light of that company's announcement of higher than predicted losses and the great improvement in the financial position of the Chrysler Corporation.

'No,' said Mr Cryer, 'the sum to be paid to Chrysler UK Ltd in respect of their 1976 losses will not be significantly more than was predicted in early 1976 when it was agreed to provide assistance, and is in fact substantially less than the maximum provision that was made in the agreement between Chrysler and the government.'

Friday, 25 February

Concorde

Donald Stewart (Western Isles) asked: 'What is the amount of loss to date on operating the Concorde aircraft?'

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'It is not British Airways policy to publish the results of individual parts of their operations in advance of the annual report and accounts. Last year's report showed that for the first three months of Concorde services there was a loss of £2.3 million after charging a full share of allocated overheads, amortisation of £0.9 million and non-recurring launch costs of £1.0 million.'

Hugh Jenkins (Wandsworth, Putney) asked what consideration had been given to the report by Dr Norman S. Yeowart of the University of Salford which stated that there could well be a significant hazard to the hearing of people living near Heathrow Airport from the noise of five or more departure overflights of Concorde per day.

'Dr Yeowart's report, which deals with a very complicated subject, is being considered carefully by my scientific and medical advisers, so I am unable yet to make a definitive statement,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'I can, however, say that the preliminary advice is that the conclusions drawn from his report, that the projected level of Concorde movements at Heathrow will damage hearing, cannot be substantiated.'

Protection of Depositors Act

Ronald Brown (Hackney South and Shoreditch) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would publish a list of those banks exempted from the provisions of the Protection of Depositors Act 1963; and if he would confirm that those in the list are known as section 127 banks, and also if he would publish a list of those banks permitted in their accounting to maintain hidden reserves in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 1948; and if he would confirm that these are known as Schedule 8 banks.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'These banks are listed in appendix A to the department's *Annual Report on Companies*. Copies of *Companies in 1975*, published in August 1976, are available in the Library. I confirm that banking or discount companies exempted from the Protection of Depositors Act 1963 (as amended) are commonly known as "Section 127 banks" and that those treated as banking or discount companies for the purposes of the Eighth Schedule to the Companies Act 1948 (as amended) are known as "Schedule 8 banks".'

Oil counter-purchase

Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked: 'What response has been made to the Iranian Government's suggestion that oil counter-purchase should be used as a means of financing major civil projects in Iran by UK companies?'

Mr Dell said: 'HMG has informed the Iranian Government that it has no objection in principle to the use of oil counter-purchase as a means of financing certain priority Iranian civil projects provided that the arrangements enable contracts to be negotiated on a satisfactory commercial basis by the UK firms concerned.'

Aviation security

Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked for a statement about the meeting with the chairman and secretary general of the International Air Transport Association concerning the proposal by HMG to recover the costs of aviation security provided at international airports within the UK by charging airline passengers for this service.

Mr Clinton Davis stated: 'I met Mr Hammarskjold, the secretary general of Iata, and Mr Floyd Hall, the chairman of its Executive Committee, on 18 February. I explained that, as part of its proposals to reduce public expenditure, the government had decided in principle that the cost of aviation security should be transferred from the taxpayer to the industry from 1 April 1978, and consultations are in progress on how to implement this decision. Iata raised a number of economic and legal objections to this proposal, and asked that the decision should be reconsidered. I pointed out that several other countries, such as USA, Australia and Canada, already made charges for aviation security. I drew attention to the government's powers under the Protection of Aircraft Act 1973 to enforce security standards, and emphasised that there would be no reduction of these standards. I explained that my rt hon friend and I had carefully considered the arguments which Iata and other representatives of the industry had put forward but had concluded that the government should not alter its decision, for which legislation may be required.'

European community news

Commission agrees to defer drivers' hours regulation

William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, announced on 25 February that the EEC commission had agreed to defer for another 10 months until the end of 1977, application of the EEC drivers' hours rules to UK goods and passenger vehicles on internal journeys.

Application in the UK of the EEC rules contained in regulation 543/69 was previously deferred until 28 February. The new deferment is given legal effect by regulations* which came into operation on 1 March. The granting of the deferment means that there has been no change to the maximum hours of driving and minimum rest periods of drivers of lorries, buses and coaches engaged in domestic UK journeys. These will remain as prescribed in existing regulations made under the Transport Act 1968.

This third deferment has been granted following application by the government under article 135 of the act of accession. The two previous successful applications provided deferment for 14 months from 1 January 1976 when the EEC rules would otherwise have taken effect under the terms of our accession to the community. Like the previous two, the new deferment does not concern article 5 of regulation 543/69, which relates to the minimum ages of drivers. This was brought into effect in April last year with new driver licensing provisions under the Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) Act 1976.

The commission's proposals for altering regulation 543/69, published in March 1976 under reference R/642/76, are still under discussion between officials of the nine member states.

*The Community Drivers' Hours Rules (Deferment of Operation) Regulations 1977.

Internal market commissioner in London

Edmund Dell (left), Secretary of State for Trade, with Viscount Davignon, EEC commissioner for the internal market and industrial affairs, during their talks in London on 24 February.

UK presidency leads E. European fish talks

Negotiations between the community and Poland on a framework fisheries agreement began on 23 February and negotiations are expected to start shortly with East Germany. Similar talks with the USSR opened in Brussels on 16 February.

Because of east European reluctance to deal directly with the community, Britain, as current president of the council of ministers, is heading the community side in the negotiations but the commission is presenting the community's position. Even so it is clear that the negotiations represent a considerable step towards east European recognition of, and willingness to deal with, the community.

David Owen, now Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, led the community side at the opening ministerial session with the Soviet Union and John Tomlinson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, led at the opening session with Poland.

For the first three months of 1977 east European fishing around the coasts of EEC member states is governed by autonomous quotas set by the community at a level related to average fishing over the period 1965 to 1974. The community hopes that more permanent arrangements, under the agreement now being negotiated, can take over from the beginning of April.

At the end of January the community introduced a licensing scheme for fishing boats from the USSR, Poland and East Germany. All three countries have submitted lists of vessels to be licensed under this scheme.

The EEC is also engaged in fisheries negotiations with a number of other non-member countries including Norway, Canada, the Faroes, Spain, Sweden and Finland.

A fisheries agreement with the United States was signed on 15 February and came into force this week, on 1 March, when the Americans extended their fishing limits.

Direct elections white paper expected

A white paper is to be published in a few weeks in response to the report of the select committee on direct elections to the European assembly. This will set out the issue with which the UK will be faced, said Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State at the Home Office, on 28 February.

Speaking in Port Talbot, he explained that it would be a 'white paper with green edges. We want to hear people's views and a parliamentary debate on the white paper will be arranged. Meanwhile, I can confirm that the government remains committed to using its best endeavours to meet the target date of elections in May/June 1978'.

Mr Rees said that it was a subject of major constitutional importance and 'we need to know what we are doing before we embark on such an important piece of legislation'.

Silkin gives UK view on surpluses . . .

Britain believes that food should not be produced for storage but for people – and at a price they can afford, John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said on 24 February.

He was responding to last week's stories from Brussels that part of the EEC butter surplus was to be sold to a non-member country for much less than half the retail price of butter in Britain. Mr Silkin continued, 'that is why we are fighting in Brussels at this moment for a freeze in prices. We shall continue to do so until the system of building-up surplus stocks of food and then selling them off at bargain prices to other people is brought to an end.'

. . . on food prices

Costs of imported food from outside the EEC and the transitional increase to common prices, agreed in 1972 under the EEC treaty of accession, will make a number of price increases inevitable, said John Silkin on 22 February.

Speaking to members of the National Farmers Union at Market Harborough, he pointed out that transitional increases alone would involve price rises by the end of the

year of 12p for a pound of butter and 5p for a pound of cheese.

But, he said, the government was determined to curb inflation which meant, among other things, that food price increases must be restrained in the interests of the whole country. 'We all want a prosperous and expanding British agriculture. But this does not mean more price rises when they can be avoided. Patriotism has its disciplines as well as its rewards. Britain's agriculture and the people who work in it must expect to share in sacrifices with the rest of the country'. And a policy of restraint was not necessarily against farmers interests, he said. 'Sky high prices lead to a drop in consumption and often to a change in taste which can be lasting'. He gave as an example rises in potato prices which had lead to an increase in the consumption of imported products like rice and pasta.

. . . and on the green pound

Speaking to members of the National Farmers' Union in Maidstone on 18 February, John Silkin said that devaluation of the green pound would not be beneficial to every section of farming.

Referring to the EEC commission's latest price proposals, which called for a 5.9 devaluation of the green pound, he said, a lot of farmers in the UK wondered why he did not agree to a change now. There was a lot of confusion even in farming circles.

Devaluing the green pound would not make 'a bit of difference' to horticulture nor would it matter to sheep farmers, and to a large number of poultry farmers and egg producers, a devaluation would mean an instant rise in costs. It was true, he said, that pig producers would benefit from a drop in import subsidies but their feeding costs would also go up.

The government had to act for Britain as a whole, he explained, and there was a limit to what the government could ask the consumer to pay without a dramatic decline in the demand for the products which farmers produced – a decline which would be bound to be harmful to British agriculture.

Economic and monetary committee discusses steel

Cheap imports are not the main cause of the current crisis in the steel industry, European community commissioner Etienne Davignon told the European parliament's economic and monetary committee at its meeting of 14 and 15 February. Import restrictions might be necessary; but they would not solve the industry's structural problems. He was commenting on resolutions tabled by, among others, British members of the parliament John Prescott (Socialist) and Tom Normanton (Conservative).

Commissioner Davignon also told the committee that the community could maintain a large steel industry, and should also remain a net exporter. He said that all the nine community countries had been affected, though to different degrees, by the three-and-a-half-year steel crisis and that large companies which had invested heavily in recent years were suffering as much as others. This was because market prices were now determined by the marginal product.

In a general exchange of views, commissioner Davignon stressed the high priority which the new commission intended to give to industrial policy. A community policy was extremely necessary because unco-ordinated intervention by national governments in a number of industries increased the disparities and hence slowed down progress towards economic and monetary union.

The commissioner stated that the adaptability of enterprises was of fundamental importance to the future of the European economy. Europe was in danger of falling between two stools. The United States were stronger in the 'advanced' sectors and the developing countries were increasingly producing simple goods. What was left for Europe? Since large companies were unwieldy and found it difficult to adapt, the commission's misgivings about amalgamations had grown even greater.

EIB loan for water council

A loan totalling the equivalent of £8.3 million (12.5 million units of account) has been granted to the National Water Council (NWC) by the European Investment Bank for improved water supplies in the north-west of England. The term is nine years and the interest rate 8⅞ per cent.

The funds will be passed on by the NWC to the North West Water Authority to help to finance a series of works, estimated to cost around £90 million by their completion, for which the EIB has already made a £9 million loan in March last year. They include the construction of an additional 14 mile aqueduct (the Shap Aqueduct) from the Haweswater Reservoir in the Lake District to a treatment plant on the existing Haweswater Aqueduct which runs southwards to supply the main centres of population and industry in the north-west; two further aqueducts (one eight miles long linking the rivers Lune and Wyre, the other 17 miles long between an abstraction point further down the Wyre and a distribution point at Hoghton); and a treatment plant, additional boreholes to tap groundwater resources and modifications to an existing reservoir.

The combined effect of the project will be to release about 200,000m³ water per day to help to meet the growing industrial and domestic requirements in the NWWA region which includes the counties of Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria.

The EIB has now provided finance totalling £38.8 million for water supply schemes in the UK; other loans were for construction of the Kielder dam and reservoir in Northumberland (£17.5 million) and for various works in Cornwall (£4 million).

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Lomé convention review in April

All aspects of the Lomé Convention, including the working of its trade provisions, the operation so far of the European development fund and Stabex schemes, plus the start of arrangements for industrial co-operation, are expected to be reviewed at the next meeting of the EEC-ACP joint council of ministers.

But, said Frank Judd, then Minister of State for Overseas Development, in reply to a Commons question on 21 February, the agenda for the next meeting which is to be held in Fiji on 13 and 14 April, would not be settled until later this month.

EEC information

Free service for businessmen!
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. 01-215 4301 (six lines)

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Seeds and plants. The *Official Journal* L47, 18 February 1977, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Decision 77/145/EEC authorising Luxembourg to restrict the marketing of seed of certain varieties of agricultural plant species

Decision 77/146/EEC extending for Germany in respect of a certain number of varieties the period provided for in article 15 (1) of directive 70/457/EEC on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species

Decision 77/147/EEC authorising Germany to restrict the marketing of seed of certain varieties of agricultural plant species

Decision 77/148/EEC extending for France in respect of a certain number of varieties the period provided for in article 15 (1) of directive 70/457/EEC on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species.

Decision 77/149/EEC authorising France to restrict the marketing of seed of certain varieties of agricultural plant species

Decision 77/150/EEC authorising France to restrict the marketing of a variety of cereals

Decision 77/151/EEC extending for the UK in respect of a certain number of varieties the period provided for in article 15 (1) of directive 70/457/EEC on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species

Sugar Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L46, 18 February 1977, contains the following correction to regulation (EEC) 2990/76 on special detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for sugar (published in *Official Journal* L341, 10 December 1976):

page 15, article 5 (2):

for: '2. An import licence for products specified in article 1 (1) (c) of regulation (EEC) 3330/74 shall be valid for three months from its day of issue, within the meaning of article 9 (1) of regulation (EEC) 193/75 . . .'

read: '2. An import licence for products specified in article 1 (1) (c) of regulation (EEC) 3330/74 shall be valid from its day of issue, within the meaning of article 9 (1) of regulation (EEC) 193/75, to the end of the third following month . . .'

Live plants and products of the flower growing industry. Decision 77/152/EEC authorising member states to permit temporarily the marketing of forestry reproductive material not complying with requirements of directive 66/604/EEC (*Official Journal* L47, 18 February 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 338/77 amending regulation (EEC) 315/68 fixing quality standards for flowering bulbs, corms and tubers (*Official Journal* L48, 19 February 1977).

Tobacco. Regulation (EEC) 339/77 laying down special measures in the tobacco sector in respect of the Beneventano variety of tobacco (*Official Journal* L48, 19 February 1977).

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 340/77 amending regulation (EEC) 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of community citrus fruit (*Official Journal* L48, 19 February 1977).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 347/77 correcting the annex to regulation (EEC) 142/77 fixing an additional rate for determining the quantities of alcohol to be delivered as part of the wine deliveries for the 1976/77 wine-growing year (*Official Journal* L48, 19 February 1977).

Fish and fish products. Regulation (EEC) 350/77 laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources (*Official Journal* L48, 19 February 1977).

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L44, 16 February 1977 contains the text of decision 77/141/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to women's, girls' and infants' coats, jackets, dresses and skirts falling within heading no ex 61.02 of the common customs tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.

ACP/EEC convention of Lomé

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L46, 18 February 1977 contains the texts of the following:

Regulation (EEC) 328/77 amending the list of the countries and territories in regulation (EEC) 706/76 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific states or in the overseas countries and territories

Decision 77/155/EEC adjusting decision 76/568/EEC on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Economic Community

Decision 77/157/EEC amending the list of the countries and territories referred to in decision 76/198/EEC on import arrangements for rum, arrack and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the common customs tariff and originating in the overseas countries and territories associated with the European Economic Community by deleting 'The Comores', 'Seychelles' and 'Surinam' from the annex.

Choosing a business partner elsewhere in the community

The commission of the European communities set up the business co-operation centre to encourage co-operation between firms in different member states wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the community's markets. Co-operation is defined as pooling one or more activities of partner firms: for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. All the information supplied, and any inquiries received, are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties. The centre will search its files for a suitable partner, and if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate a summary of the firm's requirements, with no names mentioned, to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the community.

It is as one of the centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, rue Archimede 17, B-1040 Brussels. The centre makes no charge for its services.

BRE/4363/453

French company, specialist in sportswear (windcheaters, anoraks, car coats, duffle coats, etc) in wool, cotton velvet and denim, producing approximately 350,000 pa of which 65 per cent is sold by specialist retailers and 35 per cent by supermarkets (mens' garments 65 per cent, childrens' 25 per cent and womens' 10 per cent, turnover FF 30 million and 360 employees, seeks co-operation, with an EEC firm of the same sector manufacturing either womens' garments or traditional menswear, for reciprocal sales of products. A participation by the partner in the French company is possible.

Languages: French, English, German.

BRE/4280/461

French company engaged in the processing of, and trading in, French and exotic woods (forestry 6 per cent of activity, saw milling and marketing 59 per cent, roughly prepared 35 per cent, with a turnover of Fr14.5 million and 50 employees, located in west France near a large port, in new premises of a new industrial zone, with activities covering the whole national market, seeks partner engaged in a complementary sector (eg other building materials, manufacture of pre-fabricated houses, etc) who would be able to take a

participation in the French company.
Language: French.

BRE/4381/72
Dutch company engaged in national and international transport services, container-trucking, refrigerated transport, ferry-operators, warehousing and distribution, for factories, forwarders and trading-companies in western Europe, with a turnover of 9 million guilders and 80 employees, seeks a British partner of comparable size with a view to building up a joint international service for groupage part-loads and full-loads. Financially a specific service on a joint venture basis is preferred.
Languages: German, French, English, Dutch.

BRE/4311/50
Italian building company engaged in the private residence and certain public building sectors, with 40 employees and turnover of L1,100 million, seeks a British partner possessing advanced technology in the pre-fabricated residential or public building fields to profit mutually from such technology in Italy.
Languages: Italian, French, English.

BRE/4374/32
Danish company, part of larger group, designing and manufacturing stainless automatic washing plants, disinfection and pasteurising equipment for hospitals (60 per cent) and food processing industry (40 per cent), turnover 10 million kroner (10 per cent export), workforce 60, seeks contact with larger UK firm, same or allied activity (for ex designers or consultants for turnkey projects) with a view to common development of both home, Middle Eastern and African markets. The co-operation could take one or the other of the following forms: exchange of manufacturing licences and reciprocal sales of each other's products on respective home markets with exchange of market information; collaboration in sales in chosen export markets and possibly creation of common marketing company on a joint venture basis; technical research and development in common.
Languages: English, German.

Directive on foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses

A directive on foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses has been adopted by the EEC council of ministers.

The directive provides for general controls on the marketing of foods that are claimed to have particular nutritional characteristics, and for special labelling requirements for such foods.

The practical effect of the directive is likely to be small within the UK. Consumers are protected against misleading claims in relation to the composition of foods by existing food legislation.

The directive forms part of the community's programme for the harmonisation of member states' laws dealing with the composition and labelling of foods.

It applies to all foods that are of a special composition or resulting from a special manufacturing process and clearly distinguishable from foods for normal consumption; are suitable for a particular nutritional purpose; and marketed in a way which indicates their suitability for a particular nutritional use.

The directive (no 77/94) was published on 31 January 1977 in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, Vol. 20, no. L26 (obtainable from HM Stationery Office). It will be implemented by regulations under the Food and Drugs Acts. Proposals for such regulations will be issued in due course.

UK presses the case for Jet at Culham

The government is pressing Britain's case on Jet (the joint European torus thermonuclear fusion project) very hard both privately and publicly, said Tony Benn on 21 February. Replying to Commons question's, the Secretary of State for Energy said that with the UK chairing the EEC council of ministers bilateral discussions on Jet were continuing with Britain's community partners with the intention of calling a research council as soon as progress appeared possible, he said.

He explained that two councils of ministers had been set up within the European communities – the research council which was chaired by the Minister of State, Department of Industry, and the energy council which he chaired.

'I would normally expect to be present at the research council though I would not chair it,' Mr Benn said.

European Space Agency to build second Marots

For the UK the most important outcome of the meeting of the European Space Agency council, in Brussels on 14 and 15 February, was the council's declaration that it intended to build a second Marots (maritime communications) satellite which is to be launched in late 1978.

In a reply to a Commons question on 23 February, Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, who led the UK delegation at the meeting, said that the prospects for Marots, in which the UK had the majority industrial interest, were bright.

He explained that the European telecommunications authorities, including the British Post Office, were currently considering a proposal to provide a commercial service over the Indian Ocean using the two Marots satellites, and that there were hopes that Marots-type satellites would be selected for a global maritime communications system in the early 1980s.

The council had also declared its intention, Mr Kaufman said, to develop satellites for a European regional communications system in the early 1980s, and also to develop a larger communications satellite for which a market was expected to emerge in the late 1980s. A provisional decision was made to set up a European network of ground stations capable of receiving data from earth observation satellites; and it was also agreed that studies should be undertaken of a possible European earth observation satellite and of the production of a small batch of Ariane launcher rockets, supported by the participating countries.

The Brussels meeting was the first to be held at ministerial level since the ESA was set up in May 1975.

New minister for Europe

Frank Judd, formerly Minister of State for Overseas Development, was appointed Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with special responsibility for European affairs on 22 February. He takes over from David Owen who has been appointed Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

EEC-China talks expected to re-open

As a result of last week's Chinese initiative, talks between the community and the Chinese for a co-operation agreement are expected to resume shortly.

EP president in London

Georges Spénale, president of the European parliament, visited London from 24 to 25 February at the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Commons, George Thomas. Mr Thomas visited the European parliament in September 1976.

Overseas trade news

US speciality steel shortfalls to be re-allocated

Any shortfall in the import quotas of speciality steels into the United States during the period 14 March to 13 June will be re-allocated.

This is in line with the statement by the president of the United States in June 1976 when the annual quotas were imposed. He said that if the United States government decided that any quota quantity for a country or instrumentality under an item was unlikely to be used during the last three months of a restraint period, it would modify the quota quantities for that item to re-allocate the shortfall to other suppliers.

The United States government has invited written comments on the anticipated re-allocation and expects to publish initial re-allocations in the *Federal Register* during the week beginning 14 March.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Commercial Relations and Exports Division of the Department of Trade, tel. 01-215 5629.

(See also page 583).

Swiss minister visits the UK

Ernst Brugger, Swiss Federal Councillor and head of the Federal Department of Public Economy, visited the UK this week at the invitation of the Secretary of State for Trade, Edmund Dell. He was accompanied by Ambassador Paul Jolles, Director of the Division of Commerce, Ambassador Fritz Rothenbühler, Delegate for Trade Agreements, Milan Lusser and Dr Girard, both from the Division of Commerce.

As head of the Department of Public Economy – the largest of the Swiss ministries – Dr Brugger has responsibility for trade, industry, prices and consumer affairs, agriculture and some treasury functions. In addition to talks with Mr Dell, Dr Brugger had meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, the Minister of State for Industry, Alan Williams, and the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Frank Judd.

The discussions centred on UK trade with Switzerland since Britain's entry into the community and on the wider role of Switzerland and the UK in the international economic sphere.

Edmund Dell (right) greets Ernst Brugger.

UK's 1977 tourist income expected to equal value of US exports

Expenditure by overseas visitors to Britain in 1977, including the fares paid to British air and shipping lines on travel to and from Britain, will be about £2,550 million, according to the British Tourist Authority.

Speaking at the annual seminar of the Hotel Marketing Group on 24 February at the Wembley conference centre, Lord Redmayne, chairman of the North American advisory group of the British Overseas Trade Board, gave a breakdown of this total figure under broad headings: accommodation £580 million; eating out £240 million; internal transport £180 million; entertainment £200 million; shopping £800 million, and travel to and from Britain £550 million. He said that those who contributed to tourism were therefore just as important to the British economy as those who contributed to exports overseas.

Britain's income from tourism this year is expected to be equal to the value of total UK exports to the United States – this country's largest customer for exports. Lord Redmayne said that this comparison showed graphically the importance of tourism to the British economy.

Venezuela – great potential tourist market for UK

After visiting Caracas, Frank Kelly, deputy director general of the British Tourist Authority, said that new oil discoveries in Venezuela meant increasing wealth for Venezuelans and would make the country a great potential tourist market for Britain.

Mr Kelly's visit was for discussions with British Caledonian Airways, KLM and leading tour operators and travel agents to find out the potential for increasing the number of Venezuelan visitors to Britain.

He met the British ambassador to Venezuela, John Taylor, and Dr Diego Arria of the Venezuelan Ministry of Tourism Information.

In 1975, 17,000 visitors from Venezuela came to Britain. BTA estimates that this figure will increase to 20,000 in 1976.

Line of credit for Spain backed by ECGD

A £1 million line of credit, which the Midland Bank has made available to Banco Hispano Americano, Spain, is being guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The loan will enable Spanish manufacturers to place orders for UK capital plant and equipment. UK suppliers will receive 80 per cent of the contract price from the loan; the remaining 20 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources. To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £30,000 and be placed by August 1978.

New members for British Overseas Trade Board

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade and president of the British Overseas Trade Board, has appointed two new members to the board. They are:

Mr H. W. A. Francis, vice-chairman, Tarmac Ltd, and Mr B. Heath, chairman of Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd.

These appointments are for three years and are part-time and unpaid. The total membership of the board is now 22. Appointment to the BOTB includes membership of the British Overseas Trade Advisory Council.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Aid yields £8.3m for British industry

British industry received about £8.3 million in January from orders following grants and loans made to developing countries by the Ministry of Overseas Development.

The following were among the largest contracts accepted for financing in January, including earlier contracts now accepted for reimbursement from aid funds:
Motor spares for Burma (£99,316) from Scammell Motors, Watford; Bedford tipper trucks for the Sudan (£63,488) from Vauxhall Motors Ltd, Luton; textile machinery parts for Bangladesh (£100,195) from James Mackie and Sons Ltd, Belfast; locomotive spares for Bangladesh (£30,010) from Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd, Chippenham; grain storage buildings for Nepal (£155,705) from Hill Construction Co, Southampton; cranes for Pakistan (£154,338) from John Blackwood Hodge and Co, Northampton; self-setting cement for India (£67,200) from Newalls Insulation Co Ltd, Washington; gyratory crushing equipment (£179,220) from Pegson Ltd, Coalville.

Administration of these grants and loans was carried out by the Crown Agents who also placed the orders for the items for Burma, the Sudan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

Guide to equipment safety published

Technical Help to Exporters (THE), the export advisory service of the British Standards Institution, has published a comprehensive guide to legislation relating to industrial equipment safety in 64 countries throughout the world. Entitled 'Equipment safety – an international survey', the guide is an English translation of 'Maschinenschutz International 1976', published in Germany by Verein Deutscher Maschinenbau-Anstalten (VDMA) – the Association of German Machinery Manufacturers.

The guide identifies legislation governing the design and use of equipment in a wide range of industries, including agriculture, textiles, paper, engineering, building and steel. Regulations relating to pressure vessels, electrical installations and worker protection (with particular regard to noise and accident prevention) are mentioned in most countries and, where appropriate, information is given on approval and test procedures, penalties for non-compliance with the regulations, and relevant approval authorities. In addition, there are chapters on international rules and EEC harmonisation.

It is intended that the guide will be continually reviewed and brought up to date. THE's edition includes the addenda issued in April and October 1976, and the price includes the cost of future amendments produced by VDMA until January 1978. These amendments will be translated and published by THE as they become available, and will be dispatched to purchasers automatically, without charge. To enable these new amendments to be incorporated, the guide is produced in loose-leaf form.

Copies of 'Equipment safety – an international survey' cost £18 to THE members, £24 to non-members, and are available from the THE Sales Office, Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, tel. (STD 0442) 3111.

BAA forecasts growth in west European airport traffic

Strong growth in air passenger and cargo traffic through airports in western Europe has been forecast by the British Airports Authority.

The forecast – covering the years up to 1990 – estimates that passenger numbers will rise by 7.8 per cent annually and cargo tonnage by 9.2 per cent.

The study, which took a year to complete, was led by the BAA at the request of the Western European Airports Association. Covering 13 airport authorities representing 22 airports in 12 countries, it was carried out in association with London consultants Coopers and Lybrand Associates Ltd and Frankfurt Airport.

One major finding of the study was that the continued introduction of larger aircraft on scheduled routes will result in much slower growth in air transport movements (2.2 per cent per year). The study also suggests that short-haul passenger traffic within Europe is expected to grow much more slowly (at 6.5 per cent per year) than long-haul traffic (10.3 per cent).

Over 700 British firms exhibit worldwide in March

During March, over 700 British firms will take part in 21 trade fairs throughout the world with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board.

In Caracas, from 15 to 24 March, there will be the largest BOTB joint venture this year – with over 200 firms exhibiting at the British industrial exhibition. An exceptionally wide range of products will be on display, including industrial plant and equipment, machine tools, electronic and electrical equipment, engineering products, radar and associated equipment, chemicals, construction and agricultural products, laboratory equipment, scientific instrumentation, data processing, textiles and printing machinery.

At the Cairo international fair, from 17 to 31 March, there will be a British pavilion with 34 firms showing both capital and consumer products ranging from milling machines and earthmoving machinery to bathroom fittings and gardening tools.

In addition many British firms will be exhibiting at specialist trade shows in Europe, the United States, Japan, the USSR and Australia.

Caracas vice-president appointed

Viscount Montgomery has accepted the invitation of Lord Chalfont, president of the British industrial exhibition, to be vice-president of the exhibition, which will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 15 to 24 March.

Lord Montgomery is vice-chairman of the executive committee of Canning House, co-sponsors of the exhibition, and a former chairman of the executive committee. He was also president of the 1974 British industrial exhibition held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Birmingham chamber to visit Hanover fair

Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, in conjunction with Escombe Gwyn Travel, is again organising three escorted trips to the Hanover fair which will enable businessmen to attend for considerably less than the normal cost.

The tours organised by the chamber will take place on the following days:

Tour 1: 19 to 22 April,
Tour 2: 22 to 25 April
Tour 3: 25 to 28 April.

Construction mission to Saudi Arabia

A 15-man sales mission organised by the Building Materials Export Group will travel to Saudi Arabia on 17 March and visit Jeddah, Riyadh and Dhahran. The mission is concerned entirely with the construction industry and includes both firms who are already selling in Saudi Arabia and some who are new to the country.

Mr J. P. Garrett, managing director of Construction Specialities (UK) Ltd and a member of the BMEG Management Committee, will lead the mission.

Roy Hattersley visits Sweden

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, paid an official visit to Sweden on Monday and Tuesday this week (28 February and 1 March).

Mr Hattersley visited the Swedish National Price and Cartel Office and the Antitrust Ombudsman on 28 February and on 1 March he had talks with the Minister for Trade and with the Under-Secretary of State for the Budget, Sten Westerberg.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1600: Imports of textiles from Singapore, Macao and Malaysia: revised coverage of restrictions

Following the initialling of the EEC/Singapore, EEC/Macao and EEC/Malaysia textile agreements, notices to importers 1518, 1519 and 1520 published in *Trade and Industry* on 31 October and 7 November 1975, set out the quota levels for imports to the United Kingdom of certain textile items from these countries.

The agreed quotas have now been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as council regulations 114/77, 115/77 and 116/77, and the earlier descriptions have been adjusted so as to clarify the goods covered by the quotas. As a result, babies' garments and certain outergarments of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie, falling within tariff headings 61.01 and 61.02 and originating in Singapore and Macao, and certain undergarments of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie falling within tariff heading 61.03 and originating in Malaysia are now being excluded from the coverage of notices to importers 1518, 1519 and 1520. Surveillance licences will however be required for these goods if consigned to the UK from outside the EEC; details of the surveillance licensing arrangements are set out in notice to importers 1502.

The description of goods subject to quota as set out in notices to importers 1518, 1519 and 1520 should be amended to read as follows:

Tariff heading	Description of goods
SINGAPORE AND MACAO	
ex 61.01	Men's and boys' outer garments *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie*, the following: trousers, jeans, breeches and the like.
ex 61.02	Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments *other than babies' garments and other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie*, the following: trousers, jeans, breeches and the like, *other than divided skirts.*
ex 61.03	Men's and boys' under garments, including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie*, the following: shirts.

The licensing arrangements and quota levels set out in notices to importers 1518, 1519 and 1520 will continue to apply.

Handloom and certain textile handicraft products

Cotton handloom fabrics and products thereof originating in Singapore, Macao and Malaysia, of a type which when mill-made are subject to quota when imported from these countries, will not be subject to community quantitative import restrictions provided that there is satisfactory operation of the following arrangements for certification.

Importers should obtain a handloom certificate in the form set out below, from:

Department of Trade or Ministry of Finance: Singapore

Repartico Provincial de Servicos de Economia de Macao

Ministry of Trade and Industry; Kuala Lumpur (Head Office), Penang, Gohorbru, Kota Kenia, Kota Baru, Kinabaul and Kuching (Local Offices): Malaysia

The certificate, together with a completed form ILB/A, should be sent to Import Licensing Branch, at the address shown at the head of this notice, who will issue the necessary import licence.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 367.

MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE

1 the following heading:
'Certificate in respect of cotton handloom fabrics and products thereof';
2 name and address of the manufacturer;
3 name and address of the exporter;
4 name and address of the importer within the Community;
5 description of goods;
6 quantity (in tonnes or items);
7 name of vessel or flight number;
8 port or airport of destination;
9 The following declaration:
'This is to certify that the above shipment consists of:
cotton handloom fabrics (as defined in Article 4 (1) (i) of the Agreement) containing not more than 5% by weight of man-made fibres;
handmade goods made up by the cottage industry from cotton handloom fabrics (as defined in Article 4 (1) (i) of the Agreement);
traditional Malaysian/Singapore folklore handicraft textile products cut, sewn or otherwise fabricated by hand in cottages which are units of the cottage industry.
Signed.....

MACAO

1 the following heading:
'Certificate in respect of cottage industry textile products referred to in Article 6 of the Agreement between the EEC and Macao on trade in textile products';
2 name and address of the manufacturer;
3 name and address of the exporter;
4 name and address of the importer within the Community;
5 description of goods;
6 quantity (in tonnes or items);
7 name of vessel or flight number;
8 port or airport of destination;
9 the following declaration:
'This is to certify that the above shipment consists of:
cotton handloom fabrics (as defined in Article 6 of the Agreement) containing not more than 5% by weight of man-made fibres,
handmade goods made up by the cottage industry from cotton handloom fabrics (as defined in Article 6 of the Agreement),
jerseys and pullovers knitted by hand from wool yarns without use of a machine,
traditional Macao folklore handicraft textile products cut, sewn or otherwise fabricated by hand in cottages which are units of the cottage industry.
Signed.....

Export Year symposium for Hull...

A symposium designed to assess the benefits gained from Export Year campaigns and to project them into future operations is expected to be held in Hull in late November or in early December. It will be organised by the North and South Humberside Export Year Co-ordinating Committee.

The committee's chairman, Harold Yates, said at a meeting on 22 February that he hoped about 120 people from management and shop floor would attend the one-day symposium to examine the value of Export Year, the problems of exporting and how companies could build on the lessons learned during Export Year.

Roy Earnshaw, the Export Year advisor, is expected in Hull on 17 May, when he will attend a meeting of the committee and visit a number of companies participating in the scheme.

...and seminar for High Wycombe

As part of their contribution to Export Year, Cave Wood (Transport) of High Wycombe is hosting an international export seminar on 26 April and among the delegates invited will be exporters from Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire.

Roy Earnshaw, Export Year advisor, will address the delegates on the objectives of Export Year and the success of the programme so far. Other speakers will discuss 'Trading in Overseas Currencies', 'International Documentation', 'Carriage of Goods Insurance' and 'Overseas Forwarding'.

The hosts are expecting an attendance of about 200 exporters. The company's overseas agents from Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany and other countries are also expected to attend and will be available to answer questions from delegates.

Export Year registers 2,000th company

Over 2,000 companies are now taking part in Export Year (see below). The Fabrics Division of Tootal Ltd in Manchester was the two thousandth company to join, when its registration was confirmed on 21 February. The company's products, which are exported world-wide, include apparel fabrics and car-seat covers.

Some two-thirds of the country's leading exporters are represented, including British Leyland, ICI, GEC, Courtaulds, British Petroleum, Hawker Siddeley, Unilever and Vauxhall.

Among the nationalised industries taking part are the British Steel Corporation, the National Coal Board, and British Rail.

Over 2000 companies are already taking part in Export Year. But there is still plenty of time to join them. Write to or phone the Export Year Office, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET. Tel. 01-215 5180/3393/5773.

USSR's new five-year plan

Emphasis on quality

High-technology industries top the list of priorities in the latest Soviet five-year plan. This article by the British commercial counsellor in Moscow describes what this will mean for western exporters between now and 1980.

Across-the-board improvements in efficiency and quality are the keynotes of the tenth Soviet five-year plan.

During the 1976-80 plan period this emphasis on quality, rather than maximisation of output, will create a need for more mechanisation and automation and, as in the ninth plan, better use of existing facilities rather than the construction of new plant, especially in western Russia. Inputs of new capital and labour will be lower and productivity from existing investment and labour will have to increase much more rapidly than in the past five years if even the modest growth targets of the new plan are to be met.

Passed into law by the Supreme Soviet on 29 October last year, the plan in its final form differs only slightly from the draft outline published in December 1975. The general lines of economic policy are unchanged and target figures for specific industries fall within the parameters given in the draft.

The one feature of some note is the modest readjustment of priorities between the heavy industry sector and the consumer industry sector; the consumer industry sector is to be given slightly higher priority in relation to heavy industry than seemed originally to have been intended.

The plan reflects above all the pressure over the whole five-year period on capital inputs and labour. National income is to grow more slowly than under previous five-year plans. The plan also envisages a controlled deceleration of overall industrial growth rates. Heavy industry is to grow by 37 per cent – as opposed to the 45.5 per cent achieved during the period of the 1971-75 plan – and light industry is to grow by 32 per cent – as opposed to the 37.4 per cent achieved under the last plan. But the cutback in the growth rate of new investment is to be much sharper; investment is to grow by 26 per cent, as opposed to 41 per cent in the 1971-75 period.

High technology industries, however, are to be given priority, and these are the areas where western companies can most expect to do business.

The growth rate of Soviet trade with western countries during the plan period is planned to be 31 per cent. That with other CMEA countries will be 41 per cent. As in the past, the Russians will strive to meet demand where possible from domestic or CMEA sources. But last year's good harvest should mean that hard currency expenditure incurred for grain purchases will not act as a damper on imports from the west for the plan period as a whole, especially of plant with long delivery schedules.

The controlled import of grain under the United States/Soviet agreement should also generate greater Soviet confidence that they will be able to spread foreign exchange expenditure more evenly over the five years, an important feature when considering the import of long lead time plant. In addition, the price of gold appears to be stabilising; the Soviet Union has favourable credit agreements with a number of western countries, including the UK, and it still has an excellent credit rating in the commercial Eurocurrency market. The gradual upturn in many western economies has already led to increased imports of Soviet raw materials and a corresponding increase in the Soviet Union's hard currency export earnings.

For all these reasons, it seems likely that the planned 31 per cent growth rate for trade with western countries will again be exceeded. At the same time the Soviet Union will continue to try to conclude deals on a compensation basis; deals financed, that is, by counter purchase of products more or less related to the equipment bought.

Agriculture is accorded particularly high priority under the plan and the ratio of agricultural investment to total investment will continue to grow.

The Soviet Union has now begun to increase significantly its imports of plant to manufacture fertilisers, pesticides, and herbicides. This should provide excellent openings for engineering contractors and process licensors, as in the past. Particular help is needed with the development of the production of nitrogen fertilisers (either from ammonia or urea), and complex fertilisers. Work on the importation of capacity and western technology for this sector is already well on the road.

The plan devotes considerable space to agricultural machinery, land reclamation, soil preservation, fodder production and livestock complexes. Fodder production would appear to be a particularly hopeful area for western exporters. The same is true of farm mechanisation as a whole. The Soviet Union may look to western suppliers if its major tractor works are to be re-equipped and rebuilt, which seems a distinct possibility. Western help may also be sought with the planned development of new types of agricultural machinery and the increased efficiency of existing types.

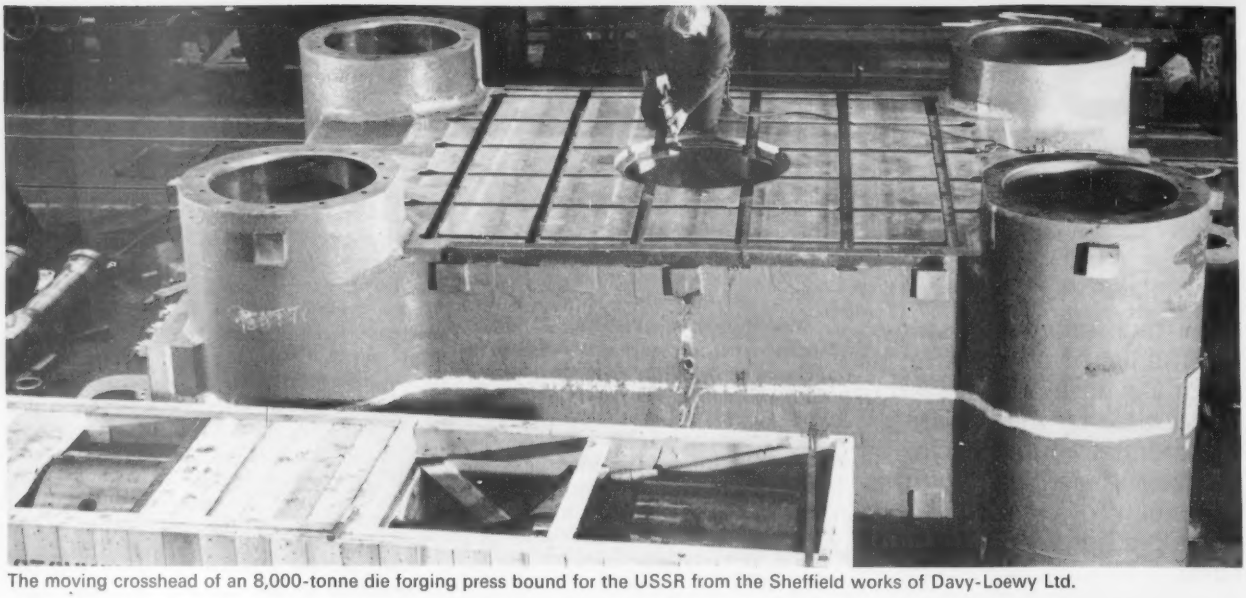
High priority is given in the plan to the engineering, chemical and petrochemical industries, the power industry, and the output of technically-advanced equipment and instruments in all branches. British contractors have long been strong in the supply of capacity to the Soviet chemical industry. Chemical fertilisers have already been mentioned. The production of synthetic proteins is also to be increased. Plastics and synthetic resins form another sector in which purchases of western plant and equipment can be expected to continue. Particular emphasis will again probably be placed on the development of thermoplastics. The range and quality of the production of chemical fibres is also to improve considerably, and further imports of western plant can be expected.

The draft plan describes engineering as the basis for the technical re-equipment of all branches of the national economy, and indicates the continuing high priority attached to automation in production technology as a means of increasing output in the engineering and metal-working industry by 50-60 per cent during the plan period. This compares with a planned increase of 72 per cent in 1971-75 and a claimed increase of 55 per cent in 1971-74.

The plan calls for increased output of machine tools equipped with computer and numerical-control systems. This would require an extension of existing Soviet machine tool production facilities, with installation of sophisticated production equipment, some of which might have to be imported from the west. It might also cause the Soviet Union to seek closer links with western suppliers of computer and numerical control systems.

Several of the other priorities indicated for the machine tool industry – increased output

Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, and Leslie Huckfield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (looking over Mr Kaufman's shoulder), during a visit last Friday to the Edgwick works, Coventry, of Alfred Herbert Ltd. They are examining a Herbert high-speed threading machine, identical to one just exported to the USSR.



The moving crosshead of an 8,000-tonne die forging press bound for the USSR from the Sheffield works of Davy-Loewy Ltd.

of heavy, special-purpose and high-precision machine tools – can probably be realised by developing indigenous resources or calling on specialist CMEA producers, such as the GDR and Czechoslovakia. However the existing machine tool industry may not be able fully to meet the wide demand for many different types of transfer machines and automatic lines. The decision to commence output of ceramic cutting tools 'which use a group of sintered oxides of extreme hardness for metal cutting' may also require recourse to western know-how.

During the plan period, the generating capacity of the electrical power industry is to be increased by 67-70,000MW. Atomic power stations will substantially raise their contribution to total capacity. The development of fast neutron reactors is mentioned in the plan, as is initial work on the possibility of using nuclear power as a source of district heating. There is to be an above-average rate of development of atomic power in European Russia where other sources of power, notably fossil fuels, are becoming depleted. All these developments should offer major new openings for British exporters of nuclear plant and technology.

It is also planned to build more thermal and hydroelectric power stations, mostly of a larger size than in the past. Progress will continue on the construction of the unified grid throughout the country.

Development of the oil industry will follow the trend established during the last plan. Production of crude oil and condensate will continue to grow but at a reduced rate with a greater percentage of total output coming from the western Siberian fields. There will be continued reliance on the use of secondary recovery techniques – water, steam and gas injection – and the newer thermal drive to boost recovery ratios. Re-equipment will continue throughout the industry and there is to be a great increase in the use of automated control systems which by 1980 are to account for 80 per cent of all oil produced.

During the next five years, the Soviet Union will expand its efforts to locate new oil reserves and to exploit more deposits. Harsh environmental conditions in many areas to be explored and exploited – ranging from offshore to desert and arctic conditions – will necessitate the use of special techniques and equipments. The Soviet Union will not be able to meet all of this demand from her own resources and will continue to buy in the west items such as large diameter pipes, valves, pumping stations, drill bits, down-hole equipment and offshore rigs and drill-ships.

The Soviet gas industry will also develop considerably under the plan. Many major producing areas are remote, and the development of the industry is therefore largely dependent on the provision of an efficient transport and handling system. A further 35,000km of gas pipeline of all types is to be laid, and the efficiency of existing pipelines is to be improved by increasing the number of compressor stations and improving automated control systems. New methods of gas transportation, including gas cooling, are to be examined. There may also be revived interest in natural gas liquefaction.

The USSR is already importing large quantities of western equipment for the gas industry. This includes large diameter pipes, compressor stations and valves, and specialised treatment facilities such as sulphur extraction units and gas hydration units.

USSR's output of selected major commodities 1974-80

	1974 (actual	1975 (plan)	1976 (plan)	1980 (guidelines)	1980 (plan)
Electric power (000 million kWh)	975.0	1,035.0	1,095.0	1,340.0-1,380.0	1,380
Crude oil (million tonnes)	459.0[1]	489.4[1]	+520.0	620.0-640.0	640
Gas (000 million cu m)	261.0	285.0	313.0	400.0-435.0	435
Coal (million tonnes)	684.0	700.0	715.0	790.0-810.0	805
Steel (million tonnes)	136.0	142.0	147.0	160.0-170.0	168.5
Finished rolled steel (million tonnes)	94.2	98.9	almost 103.0	115.0-120.0	117.5
Mineral fertiliser (million tonnes)	80.3	90.0	94.5	143.0 (inc. 5 of chemical cereal additive)	143
Plastics and synthetic resins (million tonnes)	2.5	+2.8	3.1	(90-110% inc.)	102% inc.
Chemical fibres (000 tonnes)	887.0	1,065.0	over 1,000.0	1,450-1,500.0	1,460
Textiles (000 million sq. m)	9.8	10.2	(5-7% increase)	12.5-13.1	12.75

[1] includes condensate.

Main economic indicators of the ninth and tenth five-year plans

Percentage increases over previous year

	1971-75 (guidelines)	1971-75 (plan)	1976-80 (guidelines)	1976 (plan)	1976-80 (plan)	1977 (plan)
National income	37-40	28	24-28	5.4	26	4.1
Industrial output	42-46	43	35-39	4.3	36	5.6
of which:						
Group A	41-45	n.a.	38-42	4.9	38	5.9
Group B	44-48	37	30-32	2.7	32	4.9
Capital investment	36-40		24-26		26	4.6
Real incomes per capita	30	24	20-22	3.7	21	3.8
Average wages	20-22	20	16-18	2.7	17	4.0 (estimate)
Labour productivity						
In industry	36-40	34	30-34	3.4	31	4.8
In construction	36-40	29	29-32	5.5	30	5.3
In agriculture	37-40	22	27-30		28	
Retail trade	40	36	27-29	3.6	29	4.8
Gross agricultural production[1]	20-22 (annual average)	13 (annual average)	14-17 (annual average)	7.0	16	11.0

[1] Agricultural targets expressed as a percentage increase over annual average production in previous five years.

Such purchases are likely to continue. In addition, if the Soviet Union does opt for gas liquefaction, she will undoubtedly seek both expertise and equipment in the west.

Coal mines are to be modernised during the plan period and general levels of equipment and technology are to be improved. Unused deposits of coal in the east of the country are to be exploited. Special mention is made in the outline plan of the need to speed up the design and serial production of mechanised sets of coal equipment, particularly for use in fine seams with a shallow pitch and in steeply-falling seams. Output of shaft-driving combines, mechanised loading machines and other equipment is to be expanded. There may be research and development in the field of coal gasification and liquefaction.

In the iron and steel industry, particular efforts are to be made to improve rolling and finishing. Output is to be increased of a wide range of rolled products including cold-rolled steel, coated steel, shaped profiles, low alloy heat-treated strip and cold-rolled flat strip. The production of insulated and super-durable pipes is also to be increased. New high-capacity metallurgical complexes with increased use of oxygen converters, electrical furnaces and continuous casting are to be developed with some urgency.

The USSR has in the past turned to the west for imports of specific technologies, especially in rolling and finishing. Many deliveries are still outstanding under existing agreements. This trend is likely to continue until 1980 and even beyond, though the Soviet Union will be trying to meet a greater share of her requirements by importing from eastern Europe.

In the non-ferrous metals industry, too, both the quantity and the range of products is to be improved, and emphasis will again be on the rolling and finishing sectors. Combined methods of casting and rolling will make it possible to boost the production of copper rods and aluminium strip and pipes. The plan emphasises the intention to expand the manufacture of semi-conductor and specially pure materials used in the electronics industry and to increase the output of new super-durable hard alloys, including those containing carbon, and very fine hard-alloy plates for cutting tools.

The Soviet Union's ability to do this will depend in many cases on her ability to increase the mining of ores. New high-output machines are to be developed for open-cast mining; self-propelled machines and vibration technology will be increasingly used underground. There will be efforts to reduce wastage both in mining and processing and new methods of ore enrichment and hydro-metallurgy are to be more widely applied. As in the ferrous sector, the Soviet Union will probably continue to turn to the west for certain aspects of technology, particularly for rolling and finishing.

There should also be some prospects for western exporters in the light industry and consumer sectors, particularly now that relatively higher priority has been accorded to them in the final version of the plan. The production of consumer durables is to increase substantially, and it seems likely that there will be increased imports of consumer goods, and raw materials for the food and clothing industries.

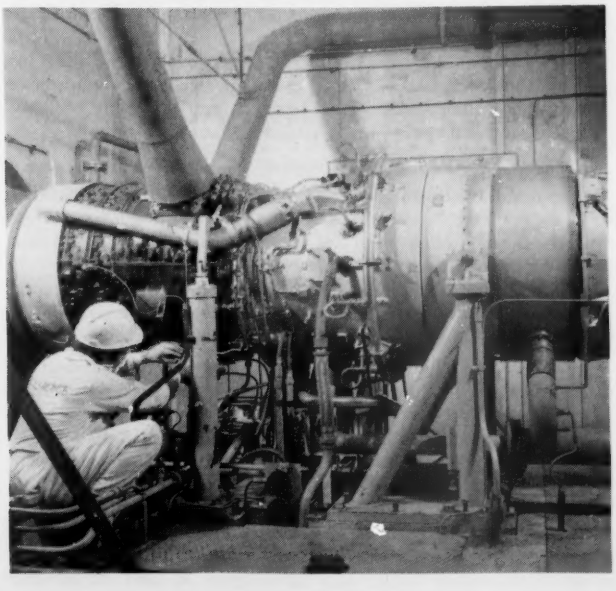
The textile industry rated a long passage in the plan outline with stress on the need to concentrate resources on the modernisation of plant in western Russia rather than the commissioning of new equipment. The electronics industry also deserves a close look, especially process control equipment, computer technology and peripherals, cash registers, weighing machines and micro-electronics. And in the food, meat and dairy industries, there is increasing awareness in the Soviet Union of the need for improved methods of design, packaging, handling and storage which should create prospects for some companies who have not sold there before.

Altogether, then, there are export opportunities in most sectors of the Soviet economy. Interested British companies will face stiff opposition from their foreign competitors, but there is no reason why they should not score successes given perseverance and a good product. In many of the fields described perceptiveness in locating the openings and persistence during the first laborious entry into the market would yield good results. The substantial contracts recently signed – the largest for gas compressors won by the Corberrow consortium was worth about £100 million – demonstrate that competitive British firms are welcome to the Soviet buying organisations.

Companies who would like further information on how to make use of the openings are advised to contact the Department of Trade, Commercial Relations and Exports Division 4, tel. 01-215 5265, or the Commercial Department of the British Embassy, Kutuzovsty Prospekt, 7/4, Moscow G248.

Largest-ever Anglo-Russian trade deal

Under a £100 million contract won by the Coberrow consortium, 42 of these gas pumping stations – powered by the Rolls-Royce Avon industrial jet engine – are to be supplied to the Soviet Union in what is believed to be the largest Anglo-Russian trade deal ever. The pumping stations will be spaced along 1300km of gas pipeline running from the western Siberian gasfields to the city of Chelyabinsk in the Urals.



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ENCIRCLE TI 419 ON PAGE 606 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Overseas trade country data

Australia

Draft report on the production of gold. The Industries Assistance Commission has released a draft of its report on the production of gold in Australia, in order that interested parties may have an opportunity to examine and comment upon it within the commission's public inquiry system before the report is finally settled.

In order to receive submissions on the report, the commission will hold further public hearings at the Bankruptcy Court, 8th Floor, Lombard House, 251 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, Western Australia, commencing at 10 a.m. on Thursday 17 March 1977, and at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, commencing at 10 a.m. on Monday 21 March 1977.

A copy of the report is available, on loan only, from Room 336, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1539/76

Miscellaneous industrial machinery. A reference has been sent to the Industries Assistance Commission requesting another inquiry and report on the question of assistance for local industry producing goods covered by the commission's report of 30 December 1975 on miscellaneous industrial machinery.

The Australian government decided not to act on the commission's report of 30 December and to request a repeat of the inquiry because the commission had highlighted its concern that the information made available at the previous inquiry on the industry's structure and performance was not sufficiently complete. For certain products where significant production was known to exist there had been no response at all from the sector concerned.

The long time lapse since the inquiry, which began in November 1972, the changed industry situation following the recent government decisions on devaluation, and the consequent reductions in tariffs on some goods resulting from acceptance of the IAC report on multilateral trade negotiations, had also prompted the government to seek another inquiry.

The inquiry will give industry a further opportunity to put all the relevant facts – including developments since the original inquiry – before the commission and an opportunity to comment on the commission's report of 30 December 1975. Should a disruptive import trend emerge as a result of the tariff reductions that have already been implemented, the sector concerned would have recourse to examination of its position by the Temporary Assistance Authority in accordance with normal procedures. Alternatively the Industries Assistance Commission could be asked to provide interim reports as appropriate.

The reference of 6 November 1972 took in industrial machinery and equipment and other goods, including parts therefor as follows:

73.40.2, 73.40.3, 73.40.4, 84.11.5 excluding hand operated inflators, 84.11.6 excluding foot operated inflators, 84.11.9 excluding air pumps and compressors, 84.16, 84.17.1, 84.17.2, 84.17.3, 84.17.4 excluding gas-fired water heaters, 84.17.5, 84.17.6, 84.17.9 excluding instantaneous or storage water heaters, 84.18.1 excluding centrifuges, 84.18.4, 84.18.5, 84.18.61 excluding original components in tractors and tractor derivatives, 84.18.69, 84.18.9, 84.19.1, 84.19.9, 84.21.1 excluding pumping units for fire fighting, 84.21.2 excluding hand fire extinguishers, 84.21.3 excluding fire extinguishers, 84.21.5, 84.21.7 excluding garden and field irrigators, appliances for spraying or dispersing pesticides or herbicides, 84.21.9, 84.22.29 excluding chain hoists and chain pulley tackle, 84.23.92, 84.41 excluding machine heads imported separately, 84.42, 84.54.3, 84.54.9, 84.55.9 parts and accessories falling within 84.55.9 for goods of a kind falling within 84.54.3 and 84.54.9, 84.57, 84.58, 84.59.1, 84.59.2, 84.59.3, 84.59.5, 84.59.6, 84.59.9, 84.60, 84.62 other than 84.62.4, 84.63.1 excluding goods for use as original components in engines for tractors or tractor derivatives, 84.63.6, 84.63.7, 84.63.8, 84.64, 84.65, ex 96.02.5 being brushes being parts for non-domestic type vacuum cleaners only.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence at the public hearing should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia without delay. Evidence may be submitted either through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1 (01-930 2524), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 2177/72

Textiles and apparel: quota arrangements. The Australian government has decided upon the tariff quota arrangements that will apply to a wide range of clothing and textiles items for 12 months commencing 1 March 1977.

The government's decision follows consideration of interim reports of the Industries Assistance Commission on clothing and certain man-made fibres, yarns and fabrics.

CLOTHING

Tariff quota levels. It has been decided that, as recommended by the commission, tariff quota levels for two categories, namely knitted outergarment shirts for men, boys and infants and knitted undergarment shirts and woven shirts for men and boys, would be reduced from 12 million and 8.5 million garments to 7.0 million and 6.5 million garments respectively. Annual tariff quota levels for all other apparel items currently subject to tariff quotas would remain unchanged.

Details of quota levels by category of apparel concerned are set out below.

Duty changes. Changes are being made to the tariff structure relating to certain garments to overcome problems which had arisen in the administration of the existing tariff quota system. For tariff quota administration purposes, all existing categories will remain. However, where separate quota categories exist for adult and non-adult garments, all the garments concerned will be subject to the duties currently applying to adult garments. In respect of all knitted tops the new duty rates to apply to above quota imports will be the same as the current adult rate applying to knitted coats, jumpers, cardigans and the like.

The additional above quota duty on boys' woven suits, valued for duty at $A5 or less, will be $A12 per kg, the rate currently applying to garments included in the tariff quota category covering women's and children's outerwear.

YARNS AND FABRICS

The annual tariff quota levels on acrylic apparel yarns and knitted man-made fibre fabrics will be reduced and tariff quotas will be introduced on towelling and knitted man-made fibre pile fabrics. The tariff quota to apply to towels will be at the existing level.

The tariff quota on woven man-made fibre fabrics will be continued at the current annual level, subject to adjustments to take account of the special duty arrangements being introduced on these fabrics.

Duty arrangements. The additional above quota duty on woven man-made fibre fabrics will be increased to 50 cents per square metre after 28 February 1977.

Imports above quota of towelling and knitted man-made fibre pile fabrics will be subject to an additional duty of $A2 per m^2. No change has been made in the additional above quota duties on the other products on which tariff quotas are to be continued.

Special duty arrangements were being introduced on a range of woven man-made fibre fabrics. Duty-free entry under by-law is to be accorded to certain linings and inter-linings as used in apparel

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

production and to lightweight sailcloth. Provision is also being made for the authorisation of special tariff quota allocations to meet the genuine needs of apparel manufacturers for lightweight woven fabrics of wholly discontinuous polyester fibre.

There will be no change in the existing by-law provisions relating to acetate yarns. The government has not accepted the commission's suggestion that by-law might be granted for man-made fibre yarns, where there is no objection to concessional entry by local yarn producers.

Details of the new tariff quota arrangements and additional duties on above quota imports are set out below:

Apparel

Tariff quota category	Quota level from 1 March 1977 to 28 February 1978 '000 garments
Knitted coats, jumpers, cardigans and like garments	15,000
Knitted outerwear shirts for men, boys and infants	7,000
Knitted shirts and blouses for women and girls and woven shirts and blouses for women, girls and infants	10,000
Woven coats for women, girls and infants	750
Knitted or woven dresses	3,500
Knitted tracksuits for adults	470
Knitted or woven trousers and jeans for men and boys	4,000
Woven sleepwear for women, girls and infants	2,000
Knitted or woven dressing gowns, kimonos and bathgowns	250
Woven pyjamas and nightwear for men and boys	1,200
Knitted underwear shirts and woven shirts for men and boys	6,500
Suits for men and boys	90
Woven short length coats for men and boys	300
Shorts for men and boys	1,500
Certain outergarments for women, girls and infants	8,000
Swimwear	900
Babies napkins (000 units)	900

Textiles

Tariff quota category	Annual quota level	Additional above quota duty
Acrylic apparel yarns	1.4 m kg	$4 per kg
Woven man-made fibre fabrics	35 m sq m	50c per sq m
Knitted man-made fibre fabrics	2.8 m kg	$2 per sq m
Towels	2.54 sq m	$2 per sq m
Pile fabrics of man-made fibres	100 per cent of 1974-75 imports	$2 per sq m
Towelling	100 per cent of 1975-76 imports	$2 per sq m

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Industries Assistance Commission, tariff review references. As part of the tariff review programme references have been sent to the Industries Assistance Commission regarding the following industries:

1 Confectionery and other goods of a kind falling within items 17.04, 18.03, 18.04, 18.05, 18.06 and 19.08.11 of the customs tariff.
2 Rubber products of a kind falling within item 40.05.1, 40.06.1, 40.06.2, 40.06.3, 40.06.4, 40.07, 40.08, 40.09, 40.10, 40.11.1, in respect of inner tubes, 40.11.9 in respect of inner tubes and tyre flaps, 40.12, 40.14, 40.15, 40.16, 59.11.1, 59.11.9, 60.06.31, 60.06.39, or 60.06.9 in respect of rubberised textile fabrics, of the customs tariff.
3 Bolts, nuts, screws, washers and other goods of a kind falling within item 73.32, or 74.15 of the customs tariff.
4 Beeswax and other insect waxes falling within item 15.15, colloidal precious metals, amalgams of precious metals, salts and other compounds of precious metals falling within item 28.49, distilled and conductivity water and water of similar purity falling within item 28.58.9, menthol falling within item 29.05.1, vanillin and ethylvanillin falling within item 29.11.1, butyraldehyde and other goods falling within item 29.11.2, methyl formate, ethyl formate and other goods falling within item 29.14.4, dulcin falling within item 29.25.1, saccharin, salts of saccharin, chlorosaccharin and methylsaccharin falling within item 29.26.1, calcium cyclamate and sodium cyclamate falling within item 29.30.1, coumarin falling within item 29.35.3, pure water falling within item 30.03.7, essential oils and other goods falling within items 33.01, 33.02, 33.03, 33.04, or 33.05, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, polishes and creams and other goods falling within items 34.03, 34.04 or 34.05.1, casein, gelatin, dextrin and other goods falling within items 35.01, 35.02, 35.03, 35.04, 35.05, 35.06.1, or 35.06.9, artificial graphite, prepared glazings, prepared mordants, pickling preparations for metal surfaces, fluxes, prepared culture media, preparations and charges for fire extinguishers, and other goods falling within items 38.01, 38.12, 38.13, 38.16, 38.17, 38.19.1, 38.19.2, 38.19.31, 38.19.32, 38.19.39, 38.19.5 and 38.19.8, goods falling within item 38.19.9 of the customs tariff.

The final group of tariff review programme references, comprising metal cans and canisters, forging, founding and diecasting industry products, fabricated steel structures, springs and wire products, miscellaneous transport equipment and miscellaneous manufacturing equipment will be sent to the Industries Assistance Commission in June.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence at the public hearings, the dates and locations of which will be published as soon as they are known, should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600 Australia, without delay. Evidence may be submitted either through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned, or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4FW, tel. 01-930 2524, who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 392/77 (item 1) 393/77 (item 2) 394/77 (item 3) 395/77 (item 4)

Whisky, gin, vodka and brandy: Temporary Assistance Authority reference. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 29 October 1976, reported a request for temporary protection against imports of whisky, gin and vodka into Australia. Brandy has now been included within the terms of reference of this inquiry, which was sent to the Temporary Assistance Authority on 22 February. The authority has been asked by the government to complete its inquiry, and report within 30 days of the date of the reference. Interested parties may submit evidence at the public hearing, which will take place in Canberra on 8 March 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1745/76

Furniture: location and time of the public hearings. Notices in *Trade and Industry*, 8 October 1976 and 21 January 1977, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question whether assistance should be given to the production of furniture in Australia. The Commission will hold public hearings into this reference as follows:

Location	Time
Superior Court, AMP Building, 1 King William Street, Adelaide SA	Commencing 10.00 am Monday 14 March 1977
Bankruptcy Court, 8th Floor, Lombard House, 251 Adelaide Terrace, Perth WA	Commencing 10.00 am Tuesday 15 March 1977
Public Inquiry Room, 6th Floor, 200 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic.	Commencing 10.00 am Tuesday 22 March 1977
Public Inquiry Room, IAC, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW	Commencing 10.00 am Monday 28 March 1977
Conference Room, Lower Ground Floor, Commonwealth Government Centre, 259 Anne Street, Brisbane QLD	Commencing 10.00 am Wednesday 27 April 1977

Evidence may be submitted either through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1 (01-930 2524), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1736/76

Iron and steel: Industries Assistance Commission inquiry. The commission is currently conducting an inquiry into the iron and steel industry and steel pipes and tubes, covering tariff items 73.01 to 73.20.

Pipe and tube fittings of iron and steel, for use with flexible hosing, previously classified under tariff item 73.40, are now to be classified under tariff item 73.20 and so come within the terms of the inquiry into iron and steel.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence at the public hearing, the date and location of which will be published as soon as it is known, should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box J255, Brickfield Hill, NSW 2000, Australia, without delay. Evidence may be submitted either through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned, or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4FW tel. 01-930 2524, who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1463/76

Bangladesh

Agency legislation, establishing a business. The Bangladesh government has published the Foreign Exchange Regulations (Amendment) Ordinance 1976. This states that permission of the Bangladesh Bank must be obtained:

1 by any person or persons wishing to act as an agent, technical or management adviser for a foreign person or organisation and;
2 by any foreign person or persons wishing to establish a branch, office or any other place of business in Bangladesh.

Copies of the ordinance are available to British exporters on request from OTAR tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475/7062.

Denmark

Food additives. A revised positive list of approved food additives will come into effect on 1 July 1977. Further details and copies of the list, may be obtained from: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7174.

Dominican Republic

Foreign exchange restrictions. The Central Bank of the Dominican Republic has published a notice adding a number of goods to the list of commodities for which no foreign exchange from the national banking system will be allocated. There have also been additions to the list of commodities covered by the existing requirement of opening a pre-paid letter of credit. An unofficial translation of this notice is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Dubai

Warehousing. To ease congestion in Port Rashid, the Port and Customs Department have issued the following changes which came into force on 1 January:

1 Free storage period curtailed to 10 days (previously 20).
2 Goods held in storage for more than six months (previous time limit 1 year) are to be auctioned in March 1977 and no extension of the storage period will be granted.
3 Various increases in storage charges.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475.

Ecuador

Codification of industrial property laws. On 18 October 1976 a new codification of the Trade Marks Law appeared in the *Official Journal* of Ecuador. This codification includes a new chapter on trade, commercial and agricultural names.

Under the new codification, the following are brought together:

1 Codification of 18 September 1961
2 Supreme decree 994 of 20 November 1963
3 Supreme decree 2241 of 6 October 1964
4 Supreme decree 2768-9 of 24 November 1964

On 19 October 1976 a new codification of the patent law was published in the *Official Journal* of Ecuador. Under the new codification, the following are brought together.

1 Codification of 2 October 1961
2 Supreme decree 722 of 15 May 1964
3 Supreme decree 2241 of 26 October 1964

Unofficial translations of the new codifications are available for inspection in the Chancery House Annexe of the Science Reference Library (Holborn Division), Chancery House, Lower Ground Floor, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AY.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Gabon

Change of import licensing procedure. New arrangements governing all imports into the Gabonese Republic have been issued.

As from 1 January 1977 the Gabonese authorities have decided to supervise imports from the enlarged EEC of the nine by means of a system of 'prior authorisation to import', and to extend this system to imports whatever their origin, thereby doing away with import licences.

Prior authorisation to import applications should be lodged with the Foreign Trade Directorate at least one month before the date of arrival of the goods. Applications must be accompanied by pro-forma invoices.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472/471/473/462.

Greece

Import restrictions. By decision of the Ministry of Commerce, as from 24 January fresh quail meat, chilled or frozen, under tariff heading 02.04 shall be included on import list A, and may only be imported after approval of the Greek government.

Also as from this date items under tariff heading 92.12A, record blanks made of metal, glass, cardboard, etc. coated with a layer of varnish or wax shall be transferred from import deposit list F100-2 to import deposit list P.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Iraq

Import licensing programme 1977. An unofficial translation of the list of items which are permissible imports to Private Sector importers under the 1977 Import Programme has been received.

Other lists to be published under the 1977 import programme are:

1 prohibited items
2 items restricted to the General Trade Establishment
3 items for which licences are granted only when local production does not satisfy the market.

It is not expected that these lists will contain substantial changes and information from the existing 1976 lists for these three sectors will continue to be provided until further notice.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/420.

Israel

Import duty amendments. Amendments have been issued to the Israeli customs tariff affecting the following CCC numbers (formerly BN no.):

09.01, 09.02, 13.03, 17.02, 17.04, 19.02, 20.04, 20.07, 21.01, 21.03,
21.04, 21.07, 22.09, 24.02, 25.01, 25.23, 27.07, 27.13, 27.14, 28.17,
28.19, 28.21, 28.23, 28.29, 28.32, 28.37, 28.38, 28.40, 28.42, 28.46,
28.54, 29.02, 29.04, 29.05, 29.07, 29.16, 29.17, 29.19, 29.21, 29.22,
29.23, 29.24, 29.25, 29.26, 29.30, 29.34, 29.35, 29.36, 29.40, 29 41,
29.44
30.03, 30.04, 32.09, 32.10, 32.11, 32.12, 33.04, 33.05, 33.06, 34.01,
34.02, 34.05, 34.07, 35.01, 35.02, 35.03, 35.05, 35.06, 36.06, 37.02,
37.03, 37.07, 38.11, 38.12, 38.13, 38.19, 39.01, 39.02, 39.03, 39.05,
39.06, 39.07, 40.03, 40.04, 40.06, 40.09, 40.11, 40.12, 40.13, 40.14,
40.15
41.02, 41.07, 42.03, 42.04, 42.06, 44.05, 44.09, 44.11, 44.14, 44.15,
44.18, 44.21, 45.02, 45.03, 45.04, 48.01, 48.04, 48.05, 48.07, 48.09,
48.11, 48.13, 48.15, 48.17, 48.18, 48.19, 48.20, 48.21, 50.08, 50.09,
50.10, 51.01, 51.03, 51.04, 52.02, 53.11, 53.12, 53.13, 54.03, 54.04,
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59.11, 59.12, 59.13, 59.17, 60.01, 60.03, 60.04, 60.05, 60.06, 61.01,
61.02, 61.03, 61.04, 61.05, 61.06, 61.08, 61.09, 61.10, 61.11
62.02, 62.04, 64.01, 64.02, 64.03, 64.04, 65.05, 65.06, 67.04, 68.01,
68.03, 68.04, 68.05, 68.06, 68.08, 68.09, 68.12, 68.13, 68.14, 68.16,
69.01, 69.02, 69.03, 69.10, 69.11, 69.12, 69.14, 70.01, 70.04, 70.05,
70.08, 70.09, 70.10, 70.11, 71.12, 71.13, 71.16
73.07, 73.10, 73.12, 73.13, 73.15, 73.16, 73.17, 73.20, 73.23, 73.25,
73.29, 73.31, 73.33, 73.36, 73.37, 73.40, 74.05, 74.11, 74.14, 74.15,
74.16, 74.17, 74.18, 75.06, 76.03, 76.04, 76.10, 76.15, 76.16, 77.03,
77.04, 78.01, 78.02, 78.05, 78.06, 79.03, 79.05, 79.06,
80.01, 80.02, 80.04, 80.06, 82.02, 82.03, 82.04, 82.10, 82.13, 83.03,
83.04, 83.07, 83.08, 83.09, 83.12, 83.13, 83.15, 84.01, 84.02, 84.03,
84.06, 84.13, 84.14, 84.16, 84.17, 84.18, 84.19, 84.21, 84.27, 84.30,

84.41, 84.42, 84.45, 84.46, 84.48, 84.54, 84.55, 84.58, 84.59, 84.61, 84.63, 84.64, 84.65
85.01, 85.02, 85.03, 85.04, 85.05, 85.06, 85.08, 85.10, 85.12, 85.13, 85.15, 85.19, 85.20, 85.21, 85.22, 85.24, 85.25, 85.26, 85.27, 87.06, 87.10, 87.14, 90.01, 90.04, 90.13, 90.15, 90.16, 90.24, 90.25, 90.26, 90.27, 90.28, 90.29, 91.02, 91.04, 91.05, 91.06, 91.07, 91.08, 91.10, 92.10, 92.12, 96.02, 97.04, 97.06, 98.01, 98.02, 98.03, 98.05, 98.07, 98.12, 98.14, 98.16

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Commercial invoices. The customs and excise in Israel have announced that there have been many instances when at the time of clearing imported goods through customs, suppliers' invoices did not specifically mention the country of origin of the goods in question (as required according to paragraph 6(1) of the Customs Ordinance).

Consequently, as from 1 March 1977 goods which are not invoiced correctly with the country of origin will only be released from customs control upon payment of all import duties, plus a deposit of 10 per cent. This deposit may be refunded only after presentation of a corrected invoice showing the country of origin of the goods in question.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Italy

Changes in VAT and excise tax. Decree-law 15 of 7 February 1977, published in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* of the same date, introduced changes in the rates of VAT and excise tax. Details are as follows:

VAT CHANGES
The standard rate of 12 per cent is increased to 14 per cent (but imports of petrol remain at 12 per cent).
The 30 per cent rate is increased to 35 per cent.
The 6 per cent rate applicable to certain textile products is increased to 9 per cent.

EXCISE TAX CHANGES
The rate of tax on certain petroleum products for lighting and heating are increased from 700 lire to 1,800 lire per 100kg. The rate of tax on fuel oils classed as 'fluid oils' and extra-fluid oils' is increased from 440 lire to 900 lire per 100kg.

Copies of the decree-law will be available shortly, in Italian.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Japan

Food sanitation law. An official translation of the Food Sanitation Law (Sixth Edition 1976) which sets out amongst other things a list of permissible food and drink additives has been received.

Copies now available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/7062.

Libya

Import regulations. It has been announced that all future imports of electronic components, especially amplifiers, calculators, electronic cameras, recorders, television and radio receivers, video sets, etc may only be imported by the newly formed Electronics General Company.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

Malta

Meat (Importation) Regulations 1977. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 18 February 1977, published legal notice 28 of 1977 which announced the Meat (Importation) Regulations 1977. Under these regulations which include poultry and rabbits:

1 No person may import any meat other than chilled, frozen or processed meat.
2 No person may import any chilled, frozen or processed meat unless each consignment of such meat is accompanied by a document or documents to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Public Health, such document or documents showing in particular:
  2.1 that the meat to which the document, or documents, relates was derived from animals which were inspected, in the country of origin of the meat, before and after the slaughter and were found free of disease at the time of slaughter; and
  2.2 that all the dressings, preparation, processing, packing and labelling of the meat was carried out with such precautions and with such materials and equipment and in such manner to preclude any danger to health.
3 The Superintendent of Public Health may order any imported meat to be stamped in such manner as he deems necessary.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Sale of Fish Regulations, 1977. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 4 February 1977, published Legal Notice 19 of 1977 setting out new conditions regarding the sale of fish. These regulations apply to the importation of fish with the exception of canned fish. The preservatives and their amounts permitted in the case of crustaceans and molluscs are listed in the schedule to these regulations. The regulations published by government notice 477 of 1927, as subsequently amended, shall be revoked.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Netherlands

Milk, wine and washing powder decrees. Decrees dated 2 December 1976, 13 December 1976 and 15 January 1977 ('Staatsblad' 768, 769 and 41), all published on 8 February 1977, modifies the Milk Decree (Commodity Act) 1974, the wine decree and replaces the previously existing washing preparation decrees respectively.

Copies of these decrees (in Dutch) are available and an English translation should be available in about six weeks' time.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Nigeria

Prohibited imports. Information received from the British High Commission states that a decree published on 17 February amends Schedule 1 of Customs tariff (Consolidation) Decree 1973, by absolutely prohibiting with immediate effect the importation of champagne and other sparkling wines (tariff numbers 22.05A and 22.07A).

Any consignments lawfully shipped into Nigeria before commencement of the decree will be taken over by the authorities for appropriate compensation.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/472/471/462.

Norway

Prohibition on advertising of alcoholic beverages. Further to the notice published in *Trade and Industry*, 13 August 1976 page 472 regulations have now been issued extending the ban on the advertising of alcoholic beverages. The regulations are effective from 1 March 1977.

An unofficial translation of the regulations can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Panama

Beer prices. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 28 January, p. 260, gave notice of increases in the price of beer. It should be made clear that these increases referred to the *Total* increase in price and not only the taxes as the notice implied.

However, following an intervention by the Minister of Finance on behalf of consumers the price increases have been reduced as follows:

1 A case of 24 small bottles having a total capacity of 6.84 litres reduced from US $ 1.50 to US $ 0.90.
2 A case of 24 large bottles with a total capacity of 13.68 litres reduced from US $ 3.00 to US $ 1.80.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Romania

Five-year plan. A recent review of the Romanian 1976-80 five-year plan is currently available from Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Department of Trade, Room D16, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368/369 or from Commercial Relations and Exports Division 4, Room 325, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1M 0NF, tel. 01-215 3381.

Sierra Leone

Import licences. Government notice 107 published in the Sierra Leone *Gazette* of 28 January 1977 added several items to the list of goods to be imported under specific import licences. The list includes various foodstuffs, cosmetic and toilet preparations, linen, clothing, clocks and watches, travel goods, hi-fi equipment and accessories, electro-mechanical domestic appliances, motor and auto cycles and articles of iron and steel, etc. Applications for import licences for the additional items should have been made in the prescribed form by 28 February 1977.

Importers who have already placed orders for these items which were formerly imported under open general licence will be allowed to bring in such goods without a licence provided they are shipped before 28 February 1977. Thereafter importation of such goods will be subject to import licencing. Importers will be required to produce the necessary shipping documents as evidence of the date of shipment where necessary.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/472/471/462.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list no. 5/77, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 25 February 1977, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 orthochromatic plates and film in the flat classifiable under tariff subheading 37.01.90 and
2 orthochromatic film in rolls, of a length not exceeding 500m and a width not exceeding 1,050mm, classifiable under tariff subheading 37.02.90

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Customs tariff changes. The following amendment was published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 11 February 1977.

R.166. No. 59.17.55. Specific provision, at a rate of duty of 20 per cent, is made for polishing and grinding buffs of textile fabrics.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/473/462.

Spain

Fish, crustaceans and molluscs. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 26 January 1977 published royal decree 3168/1976 modifying the Spanish customs tariff chapter 3 for fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Opening of global quotas. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 2 February 1977, announced details of the Spanish global quotas for 1977. The Spanish authorities have invited applications from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the following quotas for the first half of 1977. Applications must be presented within one month from 17 February 1977 for items 9 to 20 and 19 February for items 22 to 31.

Quota number	CCCN	Goods	Value pesetas
9	15.10.C	Industrial fatty alcohols	47,583,250
10	17.02.A.1 17.02.B.1	Glucose and lactose, chemically free	47,583,250
15	28.02 28.14.A 28.15.B 28.41.B.3 ex 28.46.B	Inorganic chemical products	11,365,442
17	ex 29.44.A.1 ex 29.44.D ex 29.44.E 29.44.F	Organic chemical products	11,495,000
20	32.09.A ex 32.09.D	Varnishes, dyes, pigments and similar preparations	40,458,829
21	33.06 34.01.B	Perfumery, toilet, cosmetic preparations	23,958,000
22	35.05	Dextrins and dextrin glues; soluble or roasted starches, starch glues	3,327,500
23	29.03.B.2 36.01 36.02 36.03 ex 36.04 36.05 36.06	Powder, pyrotechnic articles and matches	15,125,000
24	37.04.A 37.05.B	Photographic material	3,660,250
25	ex 29.40 34.02.B 34.03.B ex 38.07 ex 38.08 38.19.F.2 ex 39.19.G 38.19.I ex 38.19.J	Surface-active preparations and other chemical products	120,464,753
26	39.01.A	Phenoplasts and furan resins	53,240,000
27	39.01.B	Aminoplasts	35,937,000
28	39.01.C ex 39.01.K	Other condensation, polycondensation and polyaddition products	35,369,215
29	39.02.C	Styrene and derivative products (polymerisation)	18,301,250
30	39.02.E	PVC	35,937,000
31	39.02.A.2 39.02.G.2 39.02.G.3 39.02.L.2 ex 39.02.M.1 ex 39.02.M.2 39.02.N ex 39.03.A	Other polymerisation and copolymerisation products	64,849,611

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Duty-free import quota on coal. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 3 February 1977, published an order of the Ministry of Commerce, establishing a quota of 4 million metric tonnes for the importation of coal (CCCN 27.01.A) to be imported free of import duties during 1977. The Ministry of Commerce will allocate the licences for this quota.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Tunisia

Import duties. The Tunisian *Journal*, 31 December 1976, has announced tariff changes and increases on a wide range of goods. Exporters should address their inquiries, quoting specific CCC number, to OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

Import taxes. The Tunisian authorities have also announced that the customs formalities tax has been increased to 50 millimes per 1,000kg or less gross weight with a minimum rate of 3 per cent of the cif value. Also the compensatory tax of 6 per cent *ad valorem* on all goods classified in chapter 73 has been discontinued.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

United States

Medical devices: State of California. The *Federal Register*, 15 February 1977, published a proposal by the Food and Drug Administration to grant an application of the State of California Department of Health for exemption from federal pre-emption for certain California state laws and regulations relating to medical devices.

Written comments (five copies) should be sent to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857 by 18 April 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Medical devices: hearing aid devices. The *Federal Register*, 15 February 1977, published details by the Food and Drug Administration to establish uniform professional and patient labelling requirements and conditions for sale of hearing aid devices. These regulations shall become effective 15 August 1977.

Submission of all labelling for hearing aids shall be made before 15 August 1977 to Food and Drug Administration, Bureau of Medical

Devices and Diagnostic Products, Division of Compliance, HFK-116, 8757 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Lead-based paint. The *Federal Register*, 16 February 1977, published a notice by the Consumer Product Safety Commission that information is insufficient to establish that a level of lead in paint above 0.06 per cent but not over 0.5 per cent is safe. Therefore the commission has concluded that paint manufactured after 22 June 1977 containing more than 0.06 per cent lead by weight will be considered 'lead-based paint'.

A further notice will be issued after other information has been considered by the CPS.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Plastic bottles for carbonated beverages and beer. The *Federal Register*, 15 February 1977, published details of a notice by the Food and Drug Administration permitting the use at this time of acrylonitrile copolymers in the fabrication of plastic bottles for carbonated beverages and beer. In a future issue the FDA proposes to amend the regulation for the use of acrylonitrile in plastic bottles.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Countervailing duty on gin. The US Treasury announced that countervailing duties on imports of gin from the UK were abolished from 14 February 1977. A notice was published in the *Federal Register* on 15 February 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Colour additive: FD & C no. 5. The *Federal Register*, 4 February 1977, published details by the Food and Drug Administration of a regulation to name yellow no. 5 as a colour in the list of ingredients for food and not to label as 'artificial colouring'. This is to enable people who are allergic to yellow no. 5 to avoid food products etc., and certain non-prescription drugs which contain this specific colour. Until further notice FD & C yellow no. 5 may be generally used in cosmetics and externally applied drugs.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Escape clause investigation into cast-iron cooking ware. The International Trade Commission has started an escape clause investigation into imports of cast-iron cooking ware. A public hearing will be held on 12 April 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Investigation into possible change in method of classifying textiles. Further to recent notice in *Trade and Industry* about the International Trade Commission's investigation into a possible change in the US custom's method of classifying textiles from chief value to chief weight, the commission have published proposed rules for determining chief weight. They have invited comments on the proposals by 11 March 1977.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Imports of speciality steels under quota. Further to the notice which appeared in *Trade and Industry* on 25 February 1977, the following table, derived from statistics made available by the US Customs Service, shows the products which are subject to quotas, the US quotas on imports from the EEC for the 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977, and US imports of the products concerned from the EEC during this period, as at 18 February 1977.

Product	US import quotas for 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977 (pounds weight)	US imports during this period as at 18 February 1977 (pounds weight)
Sheet and strips of stainless steel (Item 923.20)	31,600,000	24,815,135
Plates of stainless steel (Item 923.21)	5,800,000	Quota filled
Bars of stainless steel (Item 923.22)	5,000,000	1,528,326
Wire rods of stainless steel (Item 923.23)	14,800,000	Quota filled
Bearing steel (Item 923.25)	7,000,000	2,371,271
Alloy tool steel (Item 923.26)	6,800,000	6,223,220

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

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Overseas trade exhibitions

Brisk boat business in Gothenburg

From the British consulate-general, Gothenburg

An atmosphere of gloom about the future of the Swedish market hung over the international Swedish boat show in Gothenburg from 4 to 13 February, at least on the part of Swedish boat business. They feared that the market had become saturated and attributed declining sales to such factors as severe restriction of bank-lending for boat purchases, difficulties over trading-in or selling second-hand boats, and the prospects of registration (for tax purposes) of larger boats.

Little comfort could be derived from the 1976 sales figures: 20,000 boats built in Sweden, of which one-quarter were exported, against imports of 43,000. The figures also revealed that the average cost of Swedish boats was more than four times greater than that of imported boats. This is a clear indication that Swedish builders tend to concentrate on the top end of the market.

Nevertheless, the show was to be counted as successful overall, and from this it can be inferred that there has been a marked switch of preference to medium and small boats.

The British joint-venture stand organised by the British Overseas Trade Board and sponsored by the British Boat and Shipbuilders National Federation covered just over 600m² in the centre of the exhibition. In addition there were several boats, accessories and garments on display on the stands of Scandinavian agents and distributors.

The show this year attracted 127,500 visitors, and many of them decided to buy a British boat. The British stand was nearly always crowded, and many exhibitors expressed great surprise that the interest in their products was even greater than last year. The boats were attractively designed to suit this market, and the medium-sized boats in particular sold well. Advance promotion done by builders of bigger exhibits paid dividends. Several exhibitors reported business which would run into £50,000 or more. Westerly Marine, Cobramold, Island Yachts, Hunter Boats, Shetland Boats, Avon Inflatables and Meakes were all looking forward to busy months ahead with follow-up orders.

The weather can hardly be said to have been auspicious for the Gothenburg boat show as it was quite wintry throughout the week, and the many boats which could not be accommodated in the exhibition halls were deep in snow.

The Swedes love boats and they own nearly 700,000 boats of all sizes. Every town along the long coast of Sweden has one or more large marina.

The next international boat show in Gothenburg will be held from 3 to 12 February next year.

Orders boosted by Envitec '77

From J W Spies, British consulate-general, Dusseldorf

Readyseal Ltd of Watford came out to Dusseldorf at the last moment to exhibit on the British joint-venture stand at Envitec '77, from 7 to 12 February, in order to find a licensee for their new pipe-lining system; the stand was organised by the Scientific Instrument Research Association under the sponsorship of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Readyseal's exhibition contacts were very good; among them were some of the biggest names in German industry such as Deutsche Babcock, Opel, Ford, Solvay-Chemie and a number of large municipal authorities. One firm order worth DM50,000 was booked on the stand from Deutsche BP with a strong possibility of follow-up orders.

The company also found three prospective licensees of which one of them has offered to pay a fee in the region of DM250,000 for the licence. Readyseal will also supply the material and will receive a 5 per cent turnover royalty.

Castle Associates Ltd of Scarborough, manufacturers of sound level meters and analysers, sold 200 instruments worth DM28,000 off the stand to German customers. The company is also very pleased about the good response from potential customers from other European countries especially from Scandinavia.

In all there were nine British firms on the joint-venture stand, the overwhelming number of whom were very pleased with the contacts made and surprised at the number of firm orders taken.

Envitec '77 : good business for Castle Associates.

British clothing industry in force in Paris

From Robert Hyde, British embassy, Paris

Britain was strongly represented at the Paris menswear, knitwear, and children's fashionwear salons, held from 5 to 8 February 1977 at the Porte de Versailles exhibition park.

A total of 108 British companies participated in joint ventures at the three salons. The sponsors were the British Menswear Guild and the Clothing Export Council of Great Britain at the Salon Européen de l'Habillement Masculin, the British Knitting Export Council at the Salon International de la Maille, and the National Childrenswear Association at the Salon de la Mode Enfantine.

Among the 50 companies exhibiting at the enlarged menswear exhibition Gloverall did well with duffle coats, Cricket Manufacturing, enjoyed excellent results with high-fashion casualwear and the pyjamas and shirts of H. H. Windler, attracted considerable attention. A new exhibitor who did particularly well was Early Times, displaying a most impressive range of fashion shirts.

Among 22 British companies at the children's fashionwear show, a new exhibitor, Kalinda, showing children's coats, reported particularly encouraging results; in the same field, a well-established exhibitor, Emily Jane (Tinyfolk Wear), had an especially good show, while David Rome did perhaps best of all with girls' dresses.

As in 1976, the knitting industries show, with 36 companies in the joint venture, again proved the most lively of the three. Outstanding results were achieved on this occasion by the Courtaulds group, which exceeded its 1976 order figure of £250,000 within two hours of the opening. In the lingerie section, F. Ellis (Hosiery) was successful with striking young-style knitwear.

The three exhibitions consolidated their high reputation as among the world's most important shows in their field, and the contribution made by British firms was well up to their recent high standard.

Filters from Britain

A filter made by Filtration and Valves of Lye, West Midlands, being fitted to a natural gas container. Similar equipment is in use in the refining and petrochemical industries, power generation, oil exploration, shipbuilding and chemical industries throughout the world. The company's sales director, Mr J. D. Hugill is due to explore the Australian market from 10 to 26 March as a member of the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce trade mission.

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ENCIRCLE TI 425 ON PAGE 606 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Overseas trade export services

Datapost now carries goods

Post Office Datapost delivers urgent documents over the world: it can get them to the United States within 24 hours. Now the service has been extended to carry merchandise and can carry anything that can go through the normal post to certain countries.

The Post Office plans to extend this document-plus service to all other countries that have a Datapost-link with the UK.

At present International Datapost carries merchandise – high value spare parts, business samples and other items needing fast delivery – to Australia, Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

But it will also deliver urgent documents like contracts or bills of lading or any form of paperwork needing to be in the hands of customs officials before the arrival of goods to most major towns and cities in the United States, Japan, France, Belgium and Australia. It also delivers to major centres in Brazil, Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

Further information: circle 129

LEP Transport opens Poole office

To cater for the needs of ro-ro traffic and to handle and load containers for France, Lep Transport's newly-opened office in Poole is able to offer UK shippers of deadweight cargo, alternatives to road-ferry trailers.

With routes to the continent via Cherbourg proving particularly attractive, many shippers, who have frequently faced delays at alternative south coast ports, have switched their traffic to the rapidly-developing port of Poole which has good clearance facilities.

Further information: circle 130

P & O helps form Saudi transport company

P & O is joining Saudi and American interests in the formation of a new inland transport company – the National Transport Co of Saudi Arabia – to provide road transport and associated services throughout Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula.

The new company will specialise in container, trailer and heavy haulage and work closely with the P & O Group's specialised project forwarding activity – SPU Transport Services – which is operating throughout Europe, the United States – where it works in close co-operation with Daniel F. Young Inc of New York – Canada, the Middle East and Africa.

Based in Jeddah, the National Transport Co will extend its operations to all parts of the region, providing regular road haulage services linking the major cities of Saudi Arabia and also trading centres in the Arab Emirates and other neighbouring countries.

Further information: circle 131

New groupage container service to Iran

A new container service to Iran for groupage cargo, by sea, which avoids the heavy tax imposed on overland traffic through Turkey, is now being offered by Davies Turner.

The new service, says the company, is not only up to one-fifth cheaper than a comparable overland journey, it is also to a large extent immune from further changes in the legislative climate of those countries which overland traffic must pass through. The goods travel by road only for the last leg of the journey, between the ports of entry, of which there are two, and Tehran itself.

Consolidation points for groupage are at London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool, and sailings are on a regular basis from Felixstowe. Full loads of 20 and 40 ft are also acceptable. With priority berths at the ports of entry, as well as through bills of lading, a swift transition from ship to road is ensured, and overall transit time is approximately 25 days. The goods are cleared by customs in Tehran where Davies Turner have their own office to supervise the final stage of the operation and deal on the spot with any problems.

Further information: circle 132

Lloyds Bank opens Dubai branch

Lloyds Bank International has opened a full banking branch in Dubai. The new branch is able to provide a complete range of banking services and will be responsible for the development of the Lloyds Bank Group's international activities in the United Arab Emirates.

Last year LBI opened an offshore banking branch in Bahrain and a branch in Cairo is due to start operations shortly.

Further information: circle 133

UK-Israel transit route opens

British exporters can now send container cargoes on Zim Israel Navigation Co vessels and use the Kedem Land Bridge from Haifa/Ashdod to Eilat to ship them further.

This extension of the Zim/Kedem service to Britain has been announced by Star Shipping Agencies Ltd of London. Kedem, a wholly-owned Zim subsidiary, carried in 1976 3,500 20 and 40-ft containers, or approximately 80,000 tons, between Israel's Mediterranean ports and Eilat. By extending the Kedem Land Bridge service, which makes use of a truck and rail link between the ports of Haifa/Ashdod and Eilat to UK shippers the company expects to increase this tonnage to more than 100,000 tons in 1977.

Zim/Kedem supplies one through bill of lading, eliminating the several a shipper might otherwise need, for trans-shipped cargoes. The company even supplies through bills of lading to inland destinations such as Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Tehran. The service includes a rail link from Djibouti to Addis Ababa, and from Mombasa to Nairobi, as well as a truck link from the Iranian port of Bandar Shapur to Tehran.

Further information: circle 134

Direct dial links increase

British exporters now have Bahrain and Papua New Guinea at their finger tips. Direct dialling to Bahrain and Papua New Guinea began on 14 February.

This brings to 49 the number of countries which can be dialled direct by British 'phone users with international direct dialling (IDD).

Further information: circle 135

News of services for exporters

If your company has recently introduced a new service for exporters – in, for example, the packing, forwarding, shipping, airfreighting, banking or translation fields – we would be glad to have details, plus a good black and white photograph where appropriate.

Items for inclusion in our fortnightly 'Export Services' feature should be addressed to the Overseas Editor, 'Trade and Industry', Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

Advertisers who wish to be associated with this feature should contact Mike White at T. G. Scott's on 01-242 6264.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
						18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976			
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,084	280	804
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	154	−702	856
1973	110	35,935	10,279	1,872	2,390	1,127	404	102	382	−736	−2,334	1,598
1974	110	35,612	10,087	2,024	2,289	604	666	81	−111	−3,323	−5,220	1,897
1975	108	35,374	9,967	1,737	1,970	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,641	−3,189	1,548
1976		35,571 pe		1,653 p	1,893 p		−42 p	46 p	1 p	−1,546	−3,631	2,085
1974 2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,436	502	573	321	197	43	19	−868	−1,373	505
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,476	501	556	330	358	3	−39	−749	−1,235	486
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,581	511	559	58	133	17	−53	−852	−1,288	436
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,533	471	492	−126	18	−31	−38	−544	−947	403
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,460	444	498	−269	−105	−54	−66	−330	−654	324
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,528	416	501	−214	−234	−29	38	−531	−965	434
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,446	406	480	−90	−70	4	43	−236	−623	387
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,876	2,427	402	453	38	31	23	12	−109	−554	445
2nd qtr.	108	8,812	2,343	409	480	−118	−115	−22	−55	−466	−937	471
3rd qtr.	108	8,928	2,444	418	485	−27	4	10	22	−584	−1,153	569
4th qtr.		8,990 pe		425 p	475 p		38 p	34 p	22 p	−387	−987	600
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	0.0	+1.3	−1.8	+3.9	+2.9							
on a year earlier	+1.3	+2.2	−4.0	+2.6	−2.1							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payments basis	
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices										at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2 6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	101.2	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1976	102.2	103.3	108.1	104.7			299.0 p	219.6 p					134.8	133.3
1975 2nd qtr.	100.3	100.5	109.2	93	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.0	121.2
3rd qtr.	99.6	99.7	105.4	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.2	133.6	120.6	127.5
4th qtr.	100.4	100.4	105.7	89	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.8	113.6	128 9	126.5
1976 1st qtr.	102.1	102.0	107.3	103	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	130.3	124.9
2nd qtr.	102.4	103.5	107.6	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,246.5	5.3	119.6	135.9	134.7
3rd qtr.	101.5	103.4	108.9	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,307.5	5.5	124.7	133.1	136.6
4th qtr.	102.9	104.2	108.5	113			329.9 p	233.9 p					139.9	137.2
1976 Jan.	101.4	101.8	110.2	105	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.1	111.1	130.3	126.0
Feb.	102.7	102.2	106.6	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.2	113.5	128.4	126.1
Mar.	102.2	102.1	105.4	102	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.2	122.0	132.2	122.5
Apr.	102.3	103.2	108.8	116	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,233.7	5.2	123.9	134.3	130.6
May	104.5	106.4	106.8	110	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,250.0	5.3	120.6	136.0	137.3
June	100.4	100.9	107.3	91	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,255.7	5.3	114.3	137.5	136.2
July	101.4	103.6	108.8	91	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	219.0	1,294.6	5.5	117.6	129.5	139.2
Aug.	100.6	102.4	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	219.1	1,309.4	5.6	127.5	133.8	131.4
Sept.	102.4	104.2	108.9	86	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	219.2	1,318.6	5.6	129.0	136.2	139.3
Oct.	102.8	104.8	108.1	109	163.5	14.7	327.7	230.0	219.5	1,305.4	5.5	126.2 p	139.8	140.4
Nov.	103.1	104.5	109.2	119	165.8	15.0	331.8	234.6	220.7	..	..	..	137.7	138.8
Dec.	102.8	103.2	108.3	111	168.0	15.1	330.1 p	237.2 p	221.5	1,330.0	5.6 e	..	142.3	132.3
1977 Jan.			108 p	93	172.4	16.6	338.2 p	244.9 p	223.5 p	1,338.2	5.6	..	140.0 p	163.7 p
Feb.										1,331.4	5.6	150.5		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.4	+0.7	−0.2	+4.2	+4.9		+5.7	+5.4	+1.2	+1.5			+2½	+3½
on a year earlier	+2.5	+3.8	+1.2	+14.1	+15.5		+28.6	+18.4	+11.7	+10.6			+8¾	+12½

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months e estimate

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United Kingdom trade in the fourth quarter and year of 1976

Because of pressures on space, Section 2 (area and commodity patterns of exports and imports) and Section 3 (back run of annual and quarterly figures) will be published next week

Section 1

Visible balance (see tables 1 and 2)

In the fourth quarter of 1976 there was a deficit on visible trade of £987 million compared to £1,148 million in the third quarter. The deficit on visible trade is estimated to have been partly offset by net invisible earnings of £600 million.

The improvement in the visible trade deficit reflected a faster rise in export volume than import volume partly offset by a fall in the terms of trade index as the import unit value index rose by 7½ per cent compared with a 6 per cent rise in the exports unit value index. The fall in the terms of trade was a consequence of the further depreciation of sterling. Export volume more than made good the fall in the third quarter while the virtually unchanged volume of imports partly reflected the inclusion in the third quarter of imports of major North Sea oil production installations.

In the final quarter of the year, export volumes reversed their decline relative to import volume which had been a marked feature earlier in the year. The relative volume index (ie the export volume index expressed as a percentage of the import volume index) stood at 102.0 in the fourth quarter compared with 97.3 in the third, and was at about the same level as in the fourth quarter of 1975. The recovery in the volume of exports in the fourth quarter of last year was to a new peak, 4½ per cent above the previous peak in the third quarter of 1974. In contrast as mentioned above import volume was little changed in the fourth quarter possibly reflecting, too, the flatness of domestic activity after the revival in the early part of the year.

The terms of trade reacted to the 9½ per cent depreciation of sterling between the third and fourth quarters of 1976 by falling 1½ per cent as the rise of 7½ per cent in import prices was sharper than the 6 per cent rise in export prices. The rise in the export unit value index accelerated again in the fourth quarter as exporters appear to have continued to take advantage of the depreciation of sterling by raising their sterling export prices more quickly then they seem to have done in earlier years. However the effects of a depreciation have always been more immediate on imports and widespread price rises have occurred particularly in tobacco, textiles and textile fibres and wood. Offsetting these rises, cereal prices were less buoyant as the impact of a good Russian harvest was felt, and non-ferrous metals reacted to the apparent slowdown in the growth of world trade during the summer.

In 1976 the visible trade deficit was £3,592 million, following deficits of £3,195 million in 1975 and £5,221 million in 1974, the 1974 deficit being incurred in the immediate aftermath of the oil price rise. The worsening in the deficit between 1976 and 1975 was the result of a ½ per cent fall in the terms of trade index as the import unit value index rose by 22 per cent and the export unit value index rose by 21 per cent. In value terms this was more than enough to offset the 2 per cent rise in the relative volume index between the two years reflecting the 8 per cent rise in export volume compared with a 6 per cent rise in import volume. The main reason for the improvement in export volume in 1976 was the return to growth in world trade.

The improvement in the competitiveness of UK exports and their increasing profitability to domestic manufacturers, both the consequence of the 17 per cent depreciation of sterling between the two years may also have had some impact, but their effect is likely to be more evident in the future. Although export volume fell by 4½ per cent in 1975 as world trade turned down our export performance was better than that of many of our competitors and our share of world trade in manufactures increased but the indications are that this position has not been maintained in 1976. The rise in import volume resulted from some increase in domestic activity after its fall in 1975 and a substantial slackening of the destocking which was so marked a feature in 1975. Although the movement in the terms of trade index between the two years was sufficient to cause the visible balance to worsen, the index has in fact stayed close to the level established in the second quarter of 1975 after the effects of the oil price rise had been fully absorbed. This has been achieved despite the further depreciation of sterling during the year. UK exporters have appeared to take advantage of depreciation to raise their sterling export prices.

In 1976, the visible trade deficit is estimated to have been partly offset by net invisible earnings of £2,085 million, so that the deficit on current account for the year as a whole amounted to £1,507 million, compared with £1,647 million in 1975 and £3,324 million in 1974. The improved deficit on current account in 1976 resulted from a £537 million increase in the surplus of invisible trade, partly offset by the £397 million worsening on visible trade.

Area analysis of the visible trade balance (see table 3)

The improvement in the visible trade deficit in the fourth quarter was the outcome of opposing movements in the UK's balance with major areas of the world. Among the developed countries, there was a 13 per cent rise in exports to and imports from the EEC between the third and fourth quarters so that the deficit rose in value terms from £497 million to £574 million although it was unchanged as a percentage of imports. Our trade with the rest of Western Europe swung from a deficit of £100 million in the third quarter to a surplus of £58 million in the fourth partly reflecting the import of North Sea oil production installations in the third quarter and partly the result of a 13 per cent growth in our exports to that area in the fourth quarter. After rising sharply in the middle of 1976 the deficit with North America was little changed at £257 million in the fourth quarter. The 5½ per cent rise in exports between the two quarters was slightly faster than the 5 per cent rise in imports. After showing a surplus in the first half of the year our trade with the other developed countries slipped to a deficit of £96 million in the fourth quarter following a deficit of £17 million in the third as imports rose by 13 per cent and exports fell by 3 per cent. The deficit with the oil exporting countries in the fourth quarter fell back to £121 million from the comparatively large £290 million in the previous quarter. Exports to that area increased by 16 per cent in value while imports fell from the high third quarter level. Our trade with the rest of the world was in near balance much the same as in the previous quarter.

In 1976 as a whole the increased deficit on visible trade was again the result of conflicting movements in our balances with the major areas. The deficit with the EEC countries was reduced to £2,077 million compared with £2,348 million in 1975 and was much the same as the £2,006 million deficit in 1974. As a percentage of imports however the deficit was much lower than in either of the two preceding years, a consequence of the 44 per cent rise in exports compared to the 29 per cent rise in imports. Our trade with the rest of Western Europe also improved between 1975 and 1976, a small deficit of £16 million being recorded after deficits of £60 million in 1975 and £358 million in 1974. In contrast the UK's trading position *vis-à-vis* North America worsened, with a deficit of £822 million compared with £676 million in the previous year and £711 million in 1974. Compared with the other developed countries there was little change, a small deficit being recorded for the second successive year after a surplus of £93 million in 1974. After the deficit of £2,219 million with the oil exporting countries in 1974, following the oil price rise, strong growth in exports led to a sharply reduced deficit of £704 million in 1975. There was little further change in 1976 with a deficit of £709 million being recorded. As a percentage of imports however the deficit fell substantially between 1975 and 1976. With the rest of the world, there was a substantial reduction in the surplus from £612 million in 1975 to £38 million in 1976, the result of a strong rise in imports.

Exports (see tables 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8)

The value of exports in the fourth quarter of 1976 was £7,074 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis, 11 per cent higher than in the third quarter. Over this period the volume of exports rose by 5 per cent, while export prices were 6 per cent higher.

The seasonally adjusted figures in this article take account of the updating of the seasonal factors first used when the figures for January were issued on 14 February. They also incorporate a revised treatment of goods imported for process or repair and from 1976 an allowance for under-recording of exports (see note 9).

The rise in the volume of shipments in the fourth quarter more than made good the fall of 2 per cent in the previous quarter. In the second half of 1976 as a whole the volume of deliveries was only 2½ per cent higher than in the first half year.

The 6 per cent increase in export prices in the fourth quarter of 1976 was, as in the second and third quarters of the year, faster than the rate of increase in domestic wholesale prices. This implies that there was an increase in the relative profitability of exports through 1976.

The value of exports to the developed countries in total in the fourth quarter of 1976 rose by 11 per cent, measured on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis, mainly concentrated in an expansion of shipments to western Europe. The value of exports to the rest of the EEC rose by 12 per cent, and there was a 17 per cent rise in deliveries to the rest of Western Europe. The value of goods despatched to North America increased by 5 per cent in the fourth quarter, while, on the other hand, shipments to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan) fell by 2 per cent. The value of exports to the developing countries as a whole rose by 12 per cent in the fourth quarter, with an increase of 16 per cent in shipments to the oil exporting countries. Exports to the other developing countries were 8½ per cent higher. The value of goods despatched to the centrally planned economies was 2½ per cent higher in the fourth quarter than in the third.

Among the major commodity groups measured on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis, exports of manufactures rose by 9 per cent in value in the fourth quarter of 1976, reflecting a 5½ per cent increase in export prices, and a 3½ per cent rise in the volume of deliveries. Within this broad commodity group, the value of exports of machinery rose by 9 per cent, mainly reflecting higher export prices. Shipments of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment together rose in value by 11 per cent, with an increase of 23 per cent in other transport equipment exported (due mainly to a greater value of exports of ships). Exports of chemicals and textiles rose in

TABLE 1 **Visible trade**†

Seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Exports			Imports				
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis fob	Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis fob	Overseas Trade Statistics basis cif	Freight insurance and other valuation adjustments	Coverage adjustments‡	Balance of payments basis fob	Visible balance
1970	8,076	+46	8,121	9,040	−901	+7	8,146	−25
1971	9,187	−125	9,061	9,825	−997	−47	8,781	+280
1972	9,759	−310	9,449	11,143	−1,033	+41	10,151	−702
1973	12,505	−390	12,115	15,852	−1,374	−29	14,449	−2,334
1974	16,600	−150	16,450	23,234	−1,643	+80	21,671	−5,221
1975	19,922	−543	19,379	24,128	−1,580	+26	22,574	−3,195
1976	25,778	−484	25,294	31,213	−2,005	−322	28,886	−3,592
1974 1st quarter	3,615	−31	3,584	5,282	−414	+40	4,908	−1,324
2nd quarter	4,135	−4	4,131	5,947	−422	−21	5,504	−1,373
3rd quarter	4,429	−72	4,357	5,985	−413	+21	5,593	−1,236
4th quarter	4,421	−43	4,378	6,020	−394	+40	5,666	−1,288
1975 1st quarter	4,748	−104	4,644	5,950	−370	+11	5,591	−947
2nd quarter	4,722	−111	4,611	5,573	−375	+68	5,266	−655
3rd quarter	4,962	−154	4,808	6,190	−417	+2	5,775	−967
4th quarter	5,490	−174	5,316	6,415	−418	−55	5,942	−626
1976 1st quarter	5,740	−129	5,611	6,681	−435	−97	6,149	−538
2nd quarter	6,310	−101	6,209	7,678	−502	−48	7,128	−919
3rd quarter	6,500	−100	6,400	8,110	−525	−37	7,548	−1,148
4th quarter	7,228	−154	7,074	8,744	−543	−140	8,061	−987
Percentage change								
Q4/Q3	+11		+11	+8			+7	
1976/75	+29		+31	+29			+28	

† See note 3.
§ Components and totals are rounded independently.
‡ Including adjustments for arrivals of and payments for United States military aircraft, etc.

TABLE 2 **Changes in value, volume and unit values of exports and imports on balance of payments basis**

Seasonally adjusted except Unit Values

	Exports fob			Imports fob			Terms of trade**	Relative volume index†
	Value	Volume index	Unit value index	Value	Volume index	Unit value index		
	£m	1970 = 100		£m	1970 = 100		1970 = 100	1970 = 100
1970	8,121	100.0	100.0	8,146	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	9,061	106.7	105.6	8,781	104.2	104.7	100.9	102.4
1972	9,449	107.1	111.1	10,151	116.7	109.7	101.3	91.8
1973	12,115	122.2	126.0	14,449	133.8	139.6	90.3	91.3
1974	16,450	131.2	162.7	21,671	136.2	216.7	75.1	96.3
1975	19,379	125.6	198.5	22,574	126.4	245.0	81.0	99.4
1976	25,294	135.9	240.6	28,886	134.2	299.4	80.4	101.3
1974 1st quarter	3,584	127.1	147.2	4,908	135.6	194.2	75.8	93.7
2nd quarter	4,131	134.0	159.9	5,504	138.8	218.0	73.3	96.5
3rd quarter	4,357	134.6	168.1	5,593	136.8	223.8	75.1	98.4
4th quarter	4,378	129.2	175.8	5,666	133.7	231.0	76.1	96.6
1975 1st quarter	4,644	128.8	184.9	5,591	127.9	239.8	77.1	100.7
2nd quarter	4,611	122.6	193.4	5,266	122.0	240.4	80.4	100.5
3rd quarter	4,808	121.3	202.4	5,775	128.3	246.4	82.1	94.5
4th quarter	5,316	129.6	210.1	5,942	127.4	259.7	80.9	101.7
1976 1st quarter	5,611	131.5	219.0	6,149	126.1	268.3	81.6	104.3
2nd quarter	6,209	137.1	234.2	7,128	134.6	291.7	80.3	101.9
3rd quarter	6,400	134.2	247.4	7,548	137.9	307.3	80.5	97.3
4th quarter	7,074	140.8	261.7	8,061	138.1	330.0	79.3	102.0
Percentage change								
Q4/Q3	+11	+5	+6	+7	—	+7½	−1½	+5
1976/75	+31	+8	+21	+28	+6	+22	−½	+2

** Export Unit Value Index as percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.
† Export Volume Index as percentage of the Import Volume Index.

TABLE 3 Visible trade on balance of payments basis area analysis

Seasonally adjusted values

	EEC			Rest of W. Europe			North America			Other developed countries			Oil exporting countries		
	Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Export	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance
1970	2,348	2,304	+44	1,392	1,213	+179	1,221	1,705	−484	974	825	+149	474	587	−113
1971	2,512	2,697	−185	1,519	1,401	+118	1,416	1,587	−171	1,077	854	+223	580	768	−188
1972	2,836	3,421	−585	1,604	1,641	−37	1,552	1,631	−79	931	1,085	−154	637	768	−131
1973	3,943	5,108	−1,165	2,055	2,332	−277	1,872	2,150	−278	1,209	1,411	−202	791	1,120	−329
1974	5,565	7,571	−2,006	2,745	3,103	−358	2,237	2,948	−711	1,703	1,610	+93	1,221	3,440	−2,219
1975	6,258	8,606	−2,348	3,076	3,136	−60	2,276	2,952	−676	1,831	1,850	−19	2,263	2,967	−704
1976	9,007	11,084	−2,077	3,978	3,994	−16	3,040	3,862	−822	1,917	1,923	−6	3,158	3,867	−709
1974 1st quarter	1,225	1,675	−450	621	710	−89	502	669	−167	367	360	+7	212	762	−550
2nd quarter	1,454	1,871	−417	674	766	−92	562	745	−183	418	376	+42	267	889	−622
3rd quarter	1,441	1,997	−556	734	833	−99	593	758	−165	446	428	+18	368	898	−530
4th quarter	1,445	2,028	−583	716	794	−78	580	776	−196	472	446	+26	374	891	−517
1975 1st quarter	1,470	2,084	−614	771	763	+8	583	794	−211	479	435	+44	475	759	−284
2nd quarter	1,450	1,978	−528	730	713	+17	535	683	−148	451	480	−29	577	684	−107
3rd quarter	1,526	2,203	−677	775	893	−118	521	734	−213	439	451	−12	593	771	−178
4th quarter	1,812	2,341	−529	800	767	+33	637	741	−104	462	484	−22	618	753	−135
1976 1st quarter	1,929	2,335	−406	830	839	−9	677	801	−124	491	411	+80	690	855	−165
2nd quarter	2,211	2,811	−600	995	960	+35	756	948	−192	466	439	+27	750	883	−133
3rd quarter	2,290	2,787	−497	1,013	1,113	−100	782	1,031	−249	487	504	−17	794	1,084	−290
4th quarter	2,577	3,151	−574	1,140	1,082	+58	825	1,082	−257	473	569	−96	924	1,045	−121
Percentage change															
Q4/Q3	+13	+13		+13	−3		+5½	+5		−3	+13		+16	−3½	
1976/75	+44	+29		+29	+27		+34	+31		+4½	+4		+40	+30	

value by 10 per cent and 11 per cent respectively, with increases of 5½ per cent and 3½ per cent in volume. The value of shipments of metals rose by 3 per cent in the fourth quarter, but increased prices more than offset the 2½ per cent fall in volume. The value of other manufactured goods despatched (which includes exports of precious stones, which tend to be a volatile element) rose by 16 per cent. The value of exports of non-manufactures increased by 16 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 1976. Within this group, shipments of food, beverages and tobacco and of basic materials rose in value by 13 per cent and 18 per cent respectively, mainly reflecting higher volumes of deliveries rather than increased prices. Exports of fuels rose in value by 19 per cent, largely reflecting a substantial increase in the value of crude oil shipments.

In 1976 as a whole the value of UK exports on a balance of payment basis increased by 31 per cent, while the volume rose by 8 per cent. This rise in volume more than offset the fall in 1975. Although figures are not yet available for the fourth quarter of last year, the volume of world trade seems likely to have risen by around 10 per cent in 1976 as a whole. The growth in UK manufactured exports matched the growth in world trade in the first half of 1976, but seems likely to have been rather slower in the second half-year. In value terms the UK's share of world trade fell during 1976, from 9.2 per cent in the first quarter of the year, to 8.6 per cent in the third quarter (the latest period for which information is available). A large part of this fall reflected the effect of the depreciation of sterling through 1976 which caused UK exports to rise only slowly in terms of US dollars (the common currency normally used for share calculations).

The major influence on the sharp rise of 21 per cent in export prices in 1976 was the fall of 17 per cent in the effective exchange rate for sterling. Despite this sharp increase in export prices, UK export competitiveness, which has gradually deteriorated between the end of 1973 and the end of 1975, probably improved during 1976, although reasonably firm figures are only so far available to the second quarter of the year.

In 1976 the value of goods, measured on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis, despatched to the developed countries taken together was 32 per cent more than in 1975. The market to which our exports grew fastest in 1976 was the rest of the EEC, to which our exports grew by 43 per cent to £9,174 million (over one-third of total exports). The value of deliveries to the rest of Western Europe increased by

TABLE 4 Balance of trade in petroleum and petroleum products* (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

Balance of payment basis

	Balance of visible trade	Imports					Exports		
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of division	Total	Crude oil	Rest of division
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	Million tons	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1970	−484	660	450	100.4	4.5	210	176	8	168
1971	−650	862	643	105.6	6.1	219	212	10	202
1972	−658	877	659	102.7	6.4	218	219	21	198
1973	−942	1,283	941	111.5	8.4	342	341	24	317
1974	−3,422	4,118	3,347	109.1	30.7	771	696	29	667
1975	−3,106	3,827	3,069	85.6	35.9	758	721	30	691
1976	−3,964	5,126	4,092	85.7	47.8	1,034	1,162	177	985
1974 1st quarter	−736	870	708	28.4	25.0	162	134	3	131
2nd quarter	−887	1,091	902	28.3	32.1	189	204	12	192
3rd quarter	−893	1,075	866	26.3	33.1	209	182	6	176
4th quarter	−906	1,082	871	26.1	33.5	211	176	8	168
1975 1st quarter	−774	949	759	22.2	34.3	190	175	7	168
2nd quarter	−682	840	696	20.7	33.8	144	158	2	156
3rd quarter	−785	976	800	22.4	35.6	176	191	5	186
4th quarter	−865	1,062	814	20.3	40.2	248	197	16	181
1976 1st quarter	−960	1,179	929	21.5	43.4	250	219	18	201
2nd quarter	−957	1,219	956	20.6	46.5	263	262	25	237
3rd quarter	−1,043	1,355	1,080	21.8	49.6	275	312	44	268
4th quarter	−1,004	1,373	1,127	21.8	51.9	246	369	90	279
Percentage change Q4/Q3		+1½	+4½	—	+4½	−11	+18	+103	+4½
1976/75		+34	+33	—	+33	+36	+61	+500	+42

* See note 7.

TABLE 3 *continued*

£ million

Rest of world			Total – all areas				
Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance		
1,712	1,512	+200	8,121	8,146	−25	1970	
1,957	1,474	+483	9,061	8,781	+280	1971	
1,889	1,605	+284	9,449	10,151	−702	1972	
2,245	2,328	−83	12,115	14,449	−2,334	1973	
2,979	2,999	−20	16,450	21,671	−5,221	1974	
3,675	3,063	+612	19,379	22,574	−3,195	1975	
4,194	4,156	+38	25,294	28,886	−3,592	1976	
645	713	−68	3,584	4,908	−1,324	1974	1st quarter
752	792	−40	4,131	5,504	−1,373		2nd quarter
798	762	+36	4,357	5,593	−1,236		3rd quarter
784	732	+52	4,378	5,666	−1,288		4th quarter
881	783	+98	4,644	5,591	−947	1975	1st quarter
865	689	+176	4,611	5,266	−655		2nd quarter
957	745	+212	4,808	5,775	−967		3rd quarter
972	846	+126	5,316	5,942	−626		4th quarter
1,009	942	+67	5,611	6,149	−538	1976	1st quarter
1,021	1,042	−21	6,209	7,128	−919		2nd quarter
1,042	1,051	−9	6,400	7,548	−1,148		3rd quarter
1,122	1,121	+1	7,074	8,061	−987		4th quarter
							Percentage change
+7½	+6½		+11	+7			Q4/Q3
+14	+36		+31	+28			1976/75

27 per cent in 1976. Shipments to North America, which had been particularly depressed in 1975, increased by 33 per cent in 1976. Exports to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa) rose by only 3½ per cent in 1976, which must imply a substantial fall in volume. Exports to the developing countries in aggregate were 25 per cent higher in 1976 than in 1975. Within this group the value of goods despatched to the oil exporting countries rose by 38 per cent, and there was a rise of 15 per cent in exports to the other developing countries. Exports to the centrally planned economies rose by 9 per cent in 1976.

Among major commodity groups measured on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis the value of manufactured goods exported rose by 30 per cent in 1976, with a rise of 7½ per cent in the volume of goods exported and 21 per cent in export prices. The volume of shipments of machinery and transport equipment which in contrast to the falls in most other commodity groups had increased in 1975, was unchanged in 1976. This reflected a fall of 1 per cent in the volume of exports of machinery offset by a rise of 1½ per cent in the volume of exports of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment. Exports of chemicals and textiles which had fallen particularly sharply in volume terms in 1975, rose by 20 per cent and 18 per cent respectively in volume in 1976 in both bases to round the levels of 1974. These rises in volume outweighed the increases of 14 per cent in each case in export prices. Three-quarters of the increase in exports of metals in 1976, on the other hand, was the result of higher prices. Exports of other manufactured goods rose in value by 39 per cent in 1976. Among non-manufactured goods exports of food, beverages and tobacco rose by 19 per cent in 1976, almost entirely reflecting increased prices. There was a rise of 38 per cent in the value of exports of basic materials, around two-fifths of which reflected a greater volume of deliveries. Exports of fuels increased in value by 54 per cent in 1976.

Imports (see tables 1, 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12)

In the fourth quarter of 1976 imports were valued at £8,061 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis, 7 per cent higher than in the third quarter.

The rise in imports was largely accounted for by higher prices mainly the consequence of the 9½ per cent depreciation of sterling between the third and fourth quarters. The 7½ per cent rise in the import unit value index was about the same as the rise in the third quarter but just below the 8½ per cent rise in the second quarter which again was a period of a marked fall in the exchange rate. Although the price increases in the fourth quarter were widespread over all the commodity groups measured on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis, they were particularly marked for forest products, wood manufactures, textile and textile fibres, tobacco and animal feeding stuffs. In contrast, non-ferrous metal prices which had shown strong growth in earlier quarters were a moderate 3 per cent higher in the fourth quarter as expectations about the rate of growth in world trade were not fulfilled. The increases in cereal prices were also below average at 3 per cent as the size of the Russian harvest became apparent. The rise in fuel prices was a moderate 5½ per cent while the unit value index for finished manufactures rose by 8 per cent. Within the latter group there was a sharp increase of 13 per cent in instruments.

Overall import volume remained unchanged between the third and fourth quarters on a balance of payments basis. Among the major commodity groups, measured on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis the movements in import volume between the third and fourth quarters were more disparate than for import prices. The largest rises in both value and volume was in industrial materials which increased by 12 per cent and 3½ per cent respectively. However, within the group, imports of basic materials fell back by 1½ per cent in volume terms (though the higher prices led to an 8½ per cent value increase) with timber, wood pulp and metal ores all falling back in volume terms. In contrast imports of chemicals rose 3 per cent in volume (10 per cent in value) and other semi-manufactures increased by 6 per cent in volume (14 per cent in value) with the metals and plastics materials most prominent. There was a 2 per cent rise in the volume of finished manufactures in total which contributed to the 8½ per cent rise in value. Machinery rose by 1 per cent in volume, the low figure reflecting major imports of North Sea oil production installations in the third quarter. Excluding these items, the volume of other machinery imports rose by 5½ per cent in volume and by 10 per cent in value. Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment fell 1½ per cent in volume while in value terms there was a 6 per cent rise in road motor vehicles and a 49 per cent rise in other transport equipment. Other finished manufactures rose 2½ per cent in volume and 13 per cent in value. Food, beverages and tobacco rose by 1½ per cent in volume and 11 per cent in value. There were variations from a 51 per cent rise in volume of dairy products to a 24 per cent fall in the volume of tobacco imports. Fuel imports fell 4 per cent in volume terms so that the increased prices produced a 1 per cent rise in value.

Among the sources of imports, arrivals from the developed countries in total rose by 10 per cent between the third and fourth quarters. Between the same periods, imports from the EEC rose by 15 per cent while imports from the rest of Western Europe increased by 4 per cent, although this moderate rise reflected the import of a major North Sea oil installation in the third quarter. Arrivals from North America and the other developed countries rose by 6 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. Among the developing countries, imports from the oil exporting countries fell by 3½ per cent in value from the high third quarter level while those from the other developing countries increased by 6 per cent. Imports from the centrally planned economies were 2½ per cent higher.

In 1976 as a whole imports were valued at £28,886 million on a balance of payments basis, some 28 per cent higher than 1975. The rise in value resulted from a 22 per cent increase in the import unit value index and a 6 per cent rise in volume, but volume was below that of 1974.

There were widespread price increases amongst the major commodity groups between 1975 and 1976 with the 17 per cent depreciation of sterling a major contributory factor. On an Overseas Trade Statistics basis the unit value index for fuels rose by 31 per cent between the two years, partly a reflection of the 19 per cent fall in sterling compared with the US dollar (the currency in which oil prices are fixed) but also a result of the increase in dollar oil prices. Prices of finished manufactures were 26 per cent higher reflecting not only depreciation but also the inflation in the developed countries in the last two years. Within the group there were particularly sharp rises of 33 per cent and 29 per cent in the unit value indices for clothing and instruments. The 20 per cent increase in industrial material prices was relatively evenly spread within the group, with rises of 21 per cent, 16 per cent and 21 per cent in basic materials, chemicals and other semi-manufactures respectively. At the more detailed level, there was a 39 per cent rise in the unit value index for textile fibres. 27 per cent in non-metallic mineral manufactures (mainly precious stones) and a 26 per cent increase in metal ores, but iron and steel (9½ per cent), pulp and paper (both 11 per cent) showed more moderate rises. Within the overall increase of 13 per cent in the unit value index for imports of food, beverages and tobacco there were wide variations. The index for animal feedstuffs rose by 39 per cent while the price of imported beverages increased by 7 per cent.

After rising sharply between 1971 and 1974, import volume fell by 7 per cent in 1975 as domestic activity declined together with general destocking. In 1976, the recovery at home and some slackening in the rate of destocking led to a 6 per cent increase in the volume of imports

to levels approaching those reached in 1974. The rise was concentrated in industrial materials and finished manufactures. The volume of imports of food, beverages and tobacco rose following falls in the two previous years and there was a further decline in the volume of fuel imported. The 12 per cent rise in the volume of industrial materials measured on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis (35 per cent in value) reflected a 24 per cent increase in the volume of chemical imports (42 per cent in value), a 19 per cent higher volume of basic materials (46 per cent in value) but a more moderate 7 per cent increase in other semi-manufactures (29 per cent in value). The higher level in chemical imports reflected the sharp recovery in demand and production in this sector world wide and included a 44 per cent rise in plastics materials. Other large increases were 32 per cent in timber and 23 per cent in textile fibres, products particularly susceptible to variations in stock levels, while in contrast non-ferrous metals rose by 2 per cent by volume and non-metallic mineral manufactures (mainly precious stones) by 1½ per cent. The rise of 7 per cent in the volume of finished manufactures imports contributed to the 33 per cent increase in value terms. Imports of transport equipment rose by 19 per cent in volume while within this category imports of road motor vehicles increased by 58 per cent in value. Machinery imports rose 5½ per cent by volume and 28 per cent by value. The 3 per cent increase in the volume of imports of food, beverages and tobacco (15 per cent in value) between the two years, reflected volume increases of 15 per cent and 11 per cent in fruit and vegetables and cereals respectively. These increases were partly a reflection of the poor potato and cereal harvests in the last two years and to the poor crop of green vegetables this year. Partly offsetting these rises, the volume of dairy products imported fell by 17 per cent as higher prices probably held back consumption and UK production increased and tobacco imports were 2½ per cent lower. Despite the rise in domestic demand, the volume of fuel imports fell by 2 per cent between the two years. By the end of 1976 supplies of North Sea oil from the UK sector were becoming of increasing importance in determining this trend.

Between 1975 and 1976, arrivals from all the major areas of the

TABLE 5 Exports: areas¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1970	8,076	2,359	1,368	1,231	956	466	1,352	308
1971	9,187	2,660	1,512	1,444	1,064	579	1,609	284
1972	9,759	2,940	1,730	1,600	945	645	1,560	309
1973	12,505	4,034	2,266	1,937	1,219	800	1,792	411
1974	16,600	5,516	2,952	2,263	1,699	1,210	2,384	516
1975	19,922	6,417	3,369	2,329	1,879	2,277	2,925	667
1976	25,778	9,174	4,275	3,098	1,943	3,143	3,362	727
1974 1st quarter	3,615	1,205	670	506	367	212	513	118
2nd quarter	4,135	1,415	728	568	418	263	602	121
3rd quarter	4,429	1,462	786	599	443	366	644	137
4th quarter	4,421	1,433	768	589	471	370	625	141
1975 1st quarter	4,748	1,503	826	598	485	479	705	154
2nd quarter	4,722	1,490	773	546	455	580	699	159
3rd quarter	4,962	1,566	850	544	461	599	746	183
4th quarter	5,490	1,859	919	641	478	619	775	170
1976 1st quarter	5,740	1,958	914	691	501	695	809	175
2nd quarter	6,310	2,246	1,053	773	472	751	807	183
3rd quarter	6,500	2,342	1,061	797	490	786	837	182
4th quarter	7,228	2,628	1,247	837	481	911	909	187
Percentage change								
Q4/Q3	+11	+12	+17	+5	−2	+16	+8½	+2½
1976/75	+29	+43	+27	+33	+3½	+38	+15	+9

¶ See note 2.

TABLE 6 Exports: commodity classes¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1970	8,076	514	273	207	6,806	3,301	2,221	834	246	784	959	396	1,366	276
1971	9,187	588	278	236	7,825	3,871	2,593	988	290	884	1,005	426	1,639	260
1972	9,759	660	321	239	8,257	4,014	2,716	915	383	962	1,015	445	1,821	283
1973	12,505	876	433	370	10,455	4,774	3,221	1,100	453	1,272	1,310	590	2,509	371
1974	16,600	1,063	576	767	13,685	6,059	4,215	1,304	540	2,144	1,712	745	3,025	509
1975	19,922	1,428	561	814	16,459	8,233	5,782	1,736	715	2,179	1,837	699	3,511	660
1976	25,778	1,694	776	1,255	21,347	10,126	7,062	2,224	840	3,047	2,347	934	4,892	707
1974 1st quarter	3,615	274	146	139	3,019	1,287	906	285	111	438	406	182	642	116
2nd quarter	4,135	264	156	220	3,268	1,441	980	310	129	533	408	199	812	130
3rd quarter	4,429	282	148	203	3,840	1,643	1,166	341	150	588	455	190	797	120
4th quarter	4,421	243	126	204	3,557	1,688	1,162	369	150	585	443	175	774	143
1975 1st quarter	4,748	355	137	208	3,915	1,882	1,327	409	149	561	477	173	813	145
2nd quarter	4,722	298	133	181	3,919	2,006	1,393	413	191	510	456	163	814	160
3rd quarter	4,962	377	135	208	4,108	2,123	1,492	452	165	517	442	171	841	171
4th quarter	5,490	398	156	217	4,517	2,223	1,570	463	210	590	463	191	1,044	185
1976 1st quarter	5,740	397	164	240	4,792	2,347	1,658	510	190	670	483	204	1,063	175
2nd quarter	6,310	406	182	286	5,229	2,514	1,741	553	203	733	575	223	1,228	170
3rd quarter	6,500	419	197	333	5,414	2,530	1,753	561	200	783	635	240	1,204	178
4th quarter	7,228	472	232	395	5,913	2,735	1,910	601	246	860	653	267	1,397	183
Percentage change														
Q4/Q3	+11	+13	+18	+19	+9	+8	+9	+7	+23	+10	+3	+11	+16	+2½
1976/75	+29	+19	+38	+54	+30	+23	+22	+28	+18	+40	+28	+34	+39	+7

¶ See note 2. * Not seasonally adjusted.

world increased in value terms. Within the 28 per cent increase in imports from the developed countries the arrivals from the EEC, the rest of Western Europe and North America increased by 30 per cent, 28 per cent and 32 per cent respectively, while imports from the other developed countries were 15 per cent higher. Within the developing countries, there was a 29 per cent rise in arrivals from the oil exporting countries and a 31 per cent increase in imports from the other developing countries. Arrivals from the centrally planned economies rose by 54 per cent reflecting increased imports of oil, timber and precious stones.

Notes

1 Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly Overseas Trade Statistics. These adjustments are summarised in table 1. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage. Included under this heading are adjustments to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) and to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair), where no change of ownership is involved. In addition adjustments are made from time to time to the level of exports to take account of variations in the quality of recording as revealed by the regular monitoring of the accuracy of the export figures (as described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual *'Pink Book' United Kingdom Balance*

TABLE 7 Export: volume indices (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1970	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	108.9	109	99	101	110	108	109	107	110	107	106	119
1972	111.3	113	107	102	112	106	106	105	118	108	111	128
1973	126.5	135	114	107	128	117	119	114	143	123	127	148
1974	132.9	142	115	101	135	125	127	120	169	116	125	154
1975	129.8	155	107	93	130	133	136	128	142	102	105	145
1976	139.4	156	122	108	140	133	135	130	171	108	124	168
1974 1st quarter	128.4	148	135	82	130	114	119	108	169	125	139	142
2nd quarter	133.7	142	121	110	135	123	124	116	169	113	136	166
3rd quarter	138.2	150	108	106	141	134	135	129	174	113	120	160
4th quarter	131.3	130	96	106	133	129	131	127	164	112	105	149
1975 1st quarter	132.6	164	106	104	134	133	136	129	150	114	102	147
2nd quarter	126.7	136	101	88	127	133	134	129	134	102	100	139
3rd quarter	125.7	150	105	91	127	134	138	123	136	96	104	134
4th quarter	134.4	171	118	89	133	132	135	131	148	95	114	159
1976 1st quarter	135.4	160	118	92	137	134	137	129	164	98	116	160
2nd quarter	140.3	151	119	104	141	135	135	130	167	110	122	173
3rd quarter	137.3	152	118	114	139	130	132	124	171	114	126	161
4th quarter	144.6	161	131	121	144	134	134	136	180	111	130	176
Percentage change												
Q4/Q3	+5½	+5½	+11	+6½	+3½	+3	+2	+9½	+5½	−2½	+3½	+9
1976/75	+7½	+½	+14	+16	+7½	—	−1	+1½	+20	+6½	+18	+16

TABLE 8 Exports: unit value indices (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1970	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	105.6	106	104	115	105	110	109	111	102	99	102	102
1972	111.1	113	113	116	111	118	118	117	104	100	104	107
1973	125.8	126	143	166	124	128	128	129	114	115	123	125
1974	161.4	148	181	381	155	153	155	149	169	164	159	146
1975	198.3	178	198	439	193	196	200	189	209	194	177	180
1976	240.1	213	240	553	234	245	250	234	238	228	202	221
1974 1st quarter	147.0	136	163	332	142	143	144	140	143	143	142	138
2nd quarter	159.8	148	189	392	153	149	151	146	168	164	158	143
3rd quarter	168.1	154	197	385	162	158	162	150	179	177	166	150
4th quarter	175.7	157	193	395	170	168	172	160	191	179	175	157
1975 1st quarter	184.9	166	192	416	179	179	182	172	200	184	178	163
2nd quarter	193.4	176	199	421	188	190	192	185	209	189	177	172
3rd quarter	202.0	183	200	442	197	201	202	201	209	195	177	185
4th quarter	210.1	187	202	474	205	213	217	203	211	202	180	192
1976 1st quarter	218.9	192	211	496	214	224	231	210	219	206	185	199
2nd quarter	234.3	211	229	530	229	242	248	230	232	216	196	213
3rd quarter	247.4	220	249	553	242	254	258	246	245	233	207	226
4th quarter	261.7	229	262	608	256	269	273	260	259	247	222	239
Percentage change												
Q4/Q3	+6	+4½	+5	+10	+5½	+5½	+5½	+5½	+5½	+6	+7½	+5½
1976/75	+21	+20	+21	+26	+21	+25	+25	+24	+14	+18	+14	+23

of Payments 1965-75 (table 4 and pp 59-62) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

2 The adjustments described at Note 1 have been made for the quarterly totals of exports and imports, for the main area analysis of trade (table 3) and for trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 4). They cannot be estimated for the other commodity analysis of trade nor for individual countries. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in tables 5, 6, 9, 10, 13-16 are on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis and correspond with the totals given in the first columns of table 1. Comments on total trade and in the section headed 'Area Analysis of the Visible Trade Balance' relate to figures on a balance of payments basis. Detailed analysis of imports and exports on an area and commodity basis relates to the figures on an *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis in tables, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13-16. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

3 Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1 above.

4 Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

5 Definition of area. The areas used in table 3 of this article comprise the following countries:

EEC – Belgium, Denmark, France, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and West Germany.

TABLE 9 Imports: commodity classes¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

		Industrial materials					Finished manufactures						
								Machinery and transport equipment†					
	Total	Food beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1970	9,040	2,047	945	3,862	1,362	543	1,957	2,072	1,498	1,199	169	130	574	113
1971	9,825	2,176	1,247	3,842	1,271	569	2,003	2,431	1,730	1,278	275	177	701	129
1972	11,143	2,356	1,242	4,286	1,323	651	2,312	3,130	2,238	1,568	482	188	892	129
1973	15,852	3,094	1,724	6,239	1,963	897	3,380	4,632	3,293	2,374	653	266	1,339	163
1974	23,234	3,762	4,626	8,925	2,561	1,579	4,785	5,549	3,903	2,968	647	288	1,647	372
1975	24,128	4,335	4,301	8,341	2,204	1,411	4,726	6,663	4,794	3,614	883	297	1,869	489
1976	31,213	4,993	5,652	11,296	3,223	2,000	6,073	8,860	6,389	4,637	1,398	354	2,471	412
1974 1st quarter	5,282	836	1,011	2,053	595	342	1,117	1,312	911	712	147	49	401	61
2nd quarter	5,947	935	1,215	2,318	666	399	1,253	1,387	960	745	146	85	428	75
3rd quarter	5,985	965	1,198	2,341	680	440	1,221	1,398	990	735	179	66	408	97
4th quarter	6,020	1,027	1,202	2,213	620	398	1,195	1,452	1,042	776	175	87	410	139
1975 1st quarter	5,950	1,062	1,061	2,141	582	366	1,194	1,555	1,113	812	198	96	442	150
2nd quarter	5,573	984	952	1,952	529	318	1,104	1,505	1,066	801	222	70	439	127
3rd quarter	6,190	1,122	1,099	2,043	516	331	1,197	1,834	1,359	1,054	228	70	475	105
4th quarter	6,415	1,167	1,188	2,205	578	397	1,231	1,769	1,257	947	235	60	513	106
1976 1st quarter	6,681	1,070	1,301	2,418	678	431	1,309	1,821	1,270	909	265	95	551	96
2nd quarter	7,678	1,250	1,346	2,735	760	486	1,489	2,151	1,572	1,180	325	99	579	117
3rd quarter	8,110	1,266	1,493	2,904	856	515	1,532	2,344	1,716	1,255	392	64	628	107
4th quarter	8,744	1,406	1,511	3,239	929	568	1,743	2,543	1,831	1,293	416	96	713	92
Percentage change														
Q4/Q3	+8	+11	+1	+12	+8½	+10	+14	+8½	+6½	+3	+6	+49	+13	−14
1976/75	+29	+15	+31	+35	+46	+42	+29	+33	+33	+28	+58	+19	+32	−16

* Not seasonally adjusted. † Includes North Sea production installations. ¶ See note 2.

TABLE 10 Imports: areas¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1970	9,040	2,440	1,311	1,855	856	828	1,342	389
1971	9,825	2,915	1,452	1,732	947	1,067	1,316	376
1972	11,143	3,520	1,819	1,784	1,141	1,034	1,402	423
1973	15,852	5,206	2,700	2,357	1,461	1,490	2,018	594
1974	23,234	7,713	3,460	3,241	1,679	3,795	2,581	742
1975	24,128	8,786	3,571	3,206	1,849	3,265	2,678	735
1976	31,213	11,396	4,584	4,219	2,124	4,210	3,514	1,133
1974 1st quarter	5,282	1,682	810	735	369	871	604	187
2nd quarter	5,947	1,930	868	822	400	977	693	188
3rd quarter	5,985	2,053	901	833	449	978	663	181
4th quarter	6,020	2,047	881	850	462	969	622	186
1975 1st quarter	5,950	2,134	843	859	448	830	677	184
2nd quarter	5,573	2,026	774	745	456	745	612	161
3rd quarter	6,190	2,228	1,014	798	472	853	658	184
4th quarter	6,415	2,399	940	804	473	827	731	210
1976 1st quarter	6,681	2,436	987	882	430	933	764	277
2nd quarter	7,678	2,887	1,083	1,023	498	964	870	301
3rd quarter	8,110	2,828	1,231	1,122	578	1,179	912	274
4th quarter	8,744	3,245	1,283	1,191	619	1,135	969	282
Percentage change								
Q4/Q3	+8	+15	+4	+6	+7	−3½	+6	+2½
1976/75	+29	+30	+28	+32	+15	+29	+31	+54

¶ See note 2.

Rest of Western Europe – Andorra, Austria, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part), Faroe Islands, Finland, Gibraltar, Greece, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Vatican City and Yugoslavia.

North America – Canada, Puerto Rico, USA, Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon.

Other Developed Countries – Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa.

Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah etc., Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Rest of the World – All other countries.

The areas used in tables 5, 10, 13 and 16 comprise the following countries: EEC, Rest of Western Europe, North America, Other Developed Countries, Oil Exporting Countries, as above.

Latin America – Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canal Zone of Panama, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras (not British), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Middle East and North Africa – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrain, Cyprus, Dubai, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah etc., Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, North Yemen, South Yemen, Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.

Centrally Planned Economies – Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, North Korea, Outer Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union and Vietnam.

Other Developing Countries. All other countries.

6 The invisible balance (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel and banking and financial transactions; net overseas income

TABLE 11 Imports: volume indices (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — Indices 1970 = 100

					Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
										Machinery and transport equipment†			
		Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
Weights		1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1970		100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971		104.8	100	109	101	91	103	106	115	113	106	140	122
1972		116.0	102	109	109	93	118	119	146	145	136	183	147
1973		132.7	102	112	125	104	140	136	186	185	176	219	189
1974		133.8	99	106	129	93	151	147	189	188	188	192	191
1975		124.4	98	89	113	78	122	135	183	182	176	203	186
1976		133.5	101	87	127	93	150	145	196	197	186	241	193
1974	1st quarter	132.1	95	105	129	96	151	145	189	185	188	172	200
	2nd quarter	137.4	102	107	132	96	156	151	194	190	192	198	204
	3rd quarter	134.7	100	106	130	93	160	147	190	190	185	199	188
	4th quarter	131.1	98	107	123	89	139	143	184	189	184	200	173
1975	1st quarter	125.5	96	91	117	82	125	138	185	186	177	216	183
	2nd quarter	119.0	90	85	109	77	111	130	171	168	164	206	182
	3rd quarter	126.4	101	90	111	74	117	136	192	193	190	198	189
	4th quarter	126.8	103	90	116	79	134	137	183	180	175	191	189
1976	1st quarter	126.4	95	89	124	90	143	142	182	177	166	222	195
	2nd quarter	134.1	101	87	126	92	148	144	193	196	189	244	186
	3rd quarter	135.8	103	88	127	95	153	142	202	206	194	251	193
	4th quarter	137.8	104	85	132	94	157	151	206	210	196	247	197
	Percentage change												
	Q4/Q3	+1½	+1½	−4	+3½	−1½	+3	+6	+2	+2	+1	−1½	+2½
	1976/75	+7½	+3	−2	+12	+19	+24	+7	+7	+8½	+5½	+19	+4

† Includes North Sea production installations.

TABLE 12 Imports: unit value indices (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
										Machinery and transport equipment			
		Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
1970		100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971		104.9	107	122	99	102	102	96	106	107	107	108	102
1972		109.1	114	123	102	106	104	99	111	112	109	124	110
1973		138.1	150	164	131	141	125	126	128	127	123	141	131
1974		210.3	193	468	190	208	207	172	152	147	143	163	164
1975		235.9	219	535	199	215	229	180	188	183	181	194	200
1976		288.6	247	704	239	260	267	217	237	232	227	253	249
1974	1st quarter	190.2	183	393	171	184	176	160	145	142	140	153	152
	2nd quarter	211.3	191	485	190	207	201	174	151	146	142	163	163
	3rd quarter	216.2	193	482	197	218	217	177	158	152	148	168	173
	4th quarter	222.3	202	494	199	219	230	177	166	159	155	174	185
1975	1st quarter	230.1	218	509	200	217	240	177	174	168	164	183	191
	2nd quarter	231.9	219	506	198	213	236	177	186	181	179	191	197
	3rd quarter	237.6	217	536	200	213	230	182	196	192	189	204	207
	4th quarter	249.5	223	591	206	222	234	187	205	199	197	210	220
1976	1st quarter	258.8	228	636	210	226	239	190	213	207	204	221	226
	2nd quarter	281.4	243	686	230	248	262	210	234	230	225	251	242
	3rd quarter	296.4	246	728	247	266	274	226	246	242	237	262	258
	4th quarter	318.9	268	768	268	295	296	240	265	258	251	287	284
	Percentage change												
	Q4/Q3	+7½	+8½	+5½	+8½	+11	+8½	+6½	+8	+7	+8	+9½	+10
	1976/75	+22	+13	+31	+20	+21	+16	+21	+26	+27	+26	+30	+24

in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers.

7 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 4) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in tables 6, 9. 14, and 15. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil, and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in table 4 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels totals in tables 9 and 15. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels totals in tables 6 and 14. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

8 Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply). Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to include North Sea oil production installations, however no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

9 Revised balance of payments adjustments. *Goods for process and repair.* Over the past few years, a comprehensive review of the balance of payments adjustments has been carried out. The results of the first stage of this review were introduced at the beginning of 1975. At that time some major items were held over for more detailed consideration than had been possible up to then. Among these was the adjustment for goods imported for process or repair, where it was necessary to carry out a sample survey of the source documents.

If a product is imported for process or repair and is subsequently re-exported the trader may claim relief from import duty. In the past, it has been assumed that such dutiable goods have remained in the ownership of the foreign supplier and are returned to him after the processing or repairing is complete. On this basis, trade falling under this heading has been excluded from the balance of payments figures. The main source of information about the level of trade has come from the claims for duty relief made to Customs and Excise who subsequently compile figures for the values of trade involved. These figures have been subtracted equally from exports and imports in the overseas trade statistics. The value subtracted in 1976 was £806 million. Estimates of the value of some non-dutiable items included in both exports and imports but which do not change ownership are also subtracted from both sides of the account.

The sample survey mentioned above showed that in nearly all cases dutiable goods imported for process or repair were changing ownership. In addition a similar survey of claims made in 1970 indicated the same result for that year too. In the main, the items imported under this heading were components for incorporation into UK production for subsequent re-export. Examples were components for tractors, calculators and cars.

As a result of this inquiry, therefore, dutiable goods for process or repair will now be treated as changing ownership and included in the balance of payments figures (shown in tables 1, 2, 3 and 17). No change is proposed in the treatment of the non-dutiable items for which the enquiry showed that no change of ownership takes place.

The existing values of both imports and exports, on a balance of payments basis, will be increased by the amounts hitherto subtracted (by £806 million in 1976). As the increases apply equally to both imports and exports, the visible balance will be unaffected by the change. The revisions have been carried back to 1964. There are also consequential changes to the volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis, but revisions to the unit value index numbers on the same basis are generally negligible and have been confined solely to the import series from the fourth quarter of 1973 (tables 2 and 18).

Under-recording of exports. Another change incorporated in the figures given in this article is the addition of an allowance of some £7 million a month to exports in 1976 to take account of some net under-recording disclosed as a result of the application of the regular monitoring procedures. The adjustment will be continued as appropriate during the months of 1977 (see note 1).

Overseas Trade Statistics. Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for December 1976 (with cumulative totals) were published in January* and further analyses of the figures will be found in the tables on external trade in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*.†

Telephone inquiries concerning this article should be referred to: 01-215 3131 – Value data and 01-215 3466 – Indices.

* *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, December 1976, published by HMSO, price £6.50 (annual subscription £93.60).

† *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, published by HMSO, price £1.95 (annual subscription including supplement of Definitions and postage, £27.86).

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Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in December 1976

The seasonally adjusted index of the value of retail sales in Northern Ireland for December was 283 (1965 = 100), 20 per cent more than in December 1975. In the fourth quarter of 1976 the value of sales increased by 19 per cent compared with the corresponding period in the previous year.

The total value of sales in 1976 was 16 per cent higher than in the previous year, compared with the 23 per cent rise between 1974 and 1975.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales decreased by about 1 per cent between 1975 and 1976.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in December and the fourth quarter of 1976 and the percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown below. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

The Department of Commerce has decided to suspend publication of the Index of Retail Sales as its technical accuracy, derived from conditions in 1965, cannot any longer be guaranteed. Publication will be resumed when a new index, based on the 1975 Census of Distribution, is launched in about two years' time.

		December 1976		4th quarter 1976	
Sales by:	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	219	283	20	272	19
Food shops	97	329	20	297	20
Non-food shops	122	250	21	251	18
Of which:					
Clothing and footwear shops	36	238	21	226	18
Durable goods shops	21	255	36	245	30
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	288	20	303	17
Department and general stores	22	196	13	202	12

'Energy Trends': further drop in petroleum consumption last year

Petroleum consumption last year fell by 2.4 million tons of coal equivalent (mtce) to 132 mtce, which represents its smallest share of total energy consumption since 1967, says *Energy Trends*, the Department of Energy's monthly statistical bulletin.

In contrast, power station coal burn increased to a record level of nearly 77 million tons last year and total coal consumption, at 120.5 million tons, was 2.4 million tons higher that in 1975.

Crude oil imports in 1976 were 1 per cent down on the previous year, but, at £4.6 thousand million, cost almost one-third more. Natural gas consumption rose by over 3 mtce last year and nuclear electricity contributed 12.7 mtce, almost 18 per cent more than in 1975. Total inland energy consumption last year – on a primary fuel input basis – was nearly 325 mtce, 5 mtce (about 1.5 per cent) higher than in 1975, but still 23 mtce below the 1973 peak.

Coal – drop in output and productivity
Deep-mined coal production in 1976 was 7 million tons lower than the previous year – a drop of over 6 per cent. But opencast output increased by 1.5 million tons – about 15 per cent.

Average output-per-man-shift last year, at 43.8 cwt, was lower than at any time since 1969, with the exception of the two strike-hit years, 1972 and 1974.

Coal imports fell by nearly a half last year to 2.8 million tons; exports fell by a third to 1.4 million tons.

Gas still increasing market share
Total gas sent out in Great Britain last year was nearly 14.5 million therms – 4.5 per cent more than in 1975. By the end of last year natural gas supplied over 99 per cent of the gas sent out by the British Gas Corporation.

Electricity – thermal efficiency improves again
Total fuel use at power stations during 1976 was very slightly lower than the year before, but there was an increase of over 1 per cent in electricity supplied, indicating a further improvement in thermal efficiency. There was a marked change in the pattern of fuel use at power stations. The use of oil dropped from the 1975 level of 21.1 mtce to 16.8 mtce, while coal burn reached record levels.

Petroleum – increase in product exports
Net shipments of refined products from the UK last year totalled 5.2 million tonnes, more than four times the 1975 figure of 1.2 million tonnes. Refinery output last year was over 3.6 million tonnes higher than in the previous year, but inland deliveries of petroleum products were about 1.4 million tonnes lower.

Fuel oil deliveries were about 9 per cent down last year and domestic heating oil about 2 per cent down. Deliveries of the lighter fuels, including transport fuels, were up by between 3 to 5 per cent.

Value of fuel imports and exports
The final table of the current *Energy Trends* shows the value of external trade in fuels.

The value of petroleum exports increased during 1976 by nearly two-thirds, reflecting an increase in volume of exports of crude and products together amounting to nearly 5 million tonnes.

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Capital expenditure of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries in the fourth quarter of 1976

Manufacturing industry

Capital expenditure in manufacturing industry in the fourth quarter of 1976 is provisionally estimated at £425 million at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted. This is a rise of 2 per cent on the third quarter level (which has been revised to £418 million from the £411 million previously published).

Investment has been on a continuous upward trend in the last three quarters but total expenditure in the year 1976 at about £1,650 million at 1970 prices was 5 per cent lower than in 1975. Compared with 1975, investment in new building work and plant and machinery fell by 18 per cent and 3 per cent respectively but in vehicles rose by 16 per cent.

Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)

The series relating to the capital expenditure of the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) has been revised with effect from the first quarter of 1973 to take account of annual data for the construction industry. The provisional estimate for the fourth quarter of 1976 in this series is about £475 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted. Capital expenditure in 1976 was some 4 per cent lower than in the previous year. The expenditure on new building work has fallen by 10 per cent, and on plant and machinery, by 5 per cent, but investment in vehicles has risen by 9 per cent.

Shipping industry

A further fluctuation is recorded in this series: the provisional estimate of the investment by the shipping industry in the fourth quarter of 1976 is about £33 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, less than half the result for the previous quarter, but somewhat above the figure for the second quarter. The investment in 1976 was about 40 per cent lower than that in the previous year.

Note

The estimation of changes in the volume of capital expenditure (as distinct from changes at current prices) is subject to greater error when price rises are larger, and this should be borne in mind in using the figures.

Inquiries: 01-215 3176/3175 (Manufacturing).
01-215 3345 (Distributive and Service).

TABLE 1 Fixed capital expenditure at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industrial sectors: Manufacturing industries	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1966	3,228	1,774	1,334	120	938	556	1,733
1967	3,314	1,738	1,407	170	939	603	1,772
1968	3,703 (3,615)*	1,851 (1,800)*	1,561 (1,554)*	290 (260)*	963	759 (729)*	1,980 (1,922)*
1969	3,893 (3,981)*	1,978 (2,029)*	1,683 (1,690)*	233 (263)*	1,044	728 (758)*	2,120 (2,178)*
1970	4,294	2,130	1,799	364	1,063	859	2,372
1971	4,284	1,991	1,930	364	1,114	832	2,338
1972	4,293	1,739	2,071	482	1,044	1,018	2,230
1973	4,759	1,872	2,390	498	1,131	1,129	2,500
1974	4,728	2,024	2,289	415	1,168	1,025	2,535
1975	4,046	1,737	1,970	339	1,013	821	2,213
1976	3,750	1,653	1,893	204	887	736	2,127
1971 1st quarter	1,051	513	467	71	276	185	590
2nd quarter	1,082	499	479	104	276	226	581
3rd quarter	1,094	498	495	101	281	218	595
4th quarter	1,057	480	489	88	281	204	572
1972 1st quarter	1,053	458	487	107	260	230	564
2nd quarter	1,078	429	521	128	262	260	557
3rd quarter	1,058	425	522	111	256	251	551
4th quarter	1,103	427	540	136	266	278	559
1973 1st quarter	1,204	467	583	154	280	308	615
2nd quarter	1,141	449	593	99	281	252	609
3rd quarter	1,178	489	590	99	294	261	623
4th quarter	1,236	467	623	146	276	308	652
1974 1st quarter	1,181	510	601	71	303	228	651
2nd quarter	1,172	502	573	97	290	251	631
3rd quarter	1,186	501	556	128	289	278	618
4th quarter	1,189	511	559	120	287	266	636
1975 1st quarter	1,058	471	492	95	276	221	561
2nd quarter	1,037	444	498	95	262	212	563
3rd quarter	1,007	416	501	90	246	207	554
4th quarter	945	406	480	59	228	182	535
1976 1st quarter	916	402	453	61	227	184	505
2nd quarter	915	409	480	27	223	164	528
3rd quarter	985	418	485	82	225	222	538
4th quarter	934	425	475	33	212	165	556

The figures given above cover a wide sector of the economy, accounting – after exclusion of dwellings – for some 55 per cent of all UK gross domestic fixed capital formation in 1974. The scope of manufacturing and the distributive and service industries is defined in the notes at the end of the article, and falls very largely in the private sector of the economy, although some public sector elements are included as appropriate (notably the British Steel Corporation, in manufacturing industry). Exploration and development work in the North Sea (Order II) is excluded.

* After allowing for expenditure, brought forward into 1968 from 1969 to secure the higher rate of investment grants which ended on 31 December 1968: estimated at £51 million for manufacturing industry, £7 million for distributive and service industries, and £30 million for shipping. The estimate for shipping is particularly uncertain because of the erratic nature of this industry's capital expenditure, while that for the distributive and service industries is uncertain because of the smallness of the effect.

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TABLE 2 Fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing industry at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total all manufacturing industries	Analysis by industry group: Food, drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals	Metal manufacture	Engineering shipbuilding and metal goods	Vehicles	Textiles leather and clothing	Paper printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1966	1,773.7	203.3	78.1	304.8	151.5	361.6	193.2	164.3	111.1	205.8	363.4	98.3	1,312.0
1967	1,737.7	236.5	123.7	256.1	155.4	353.2	194.6	133.0	109.0	176.2	319.6	99.5	1,318.6
1968	1,851.2 (1,800.2)*	247.1	127.7	256.0	145.8	392.2	172.2	176.7	112.2	221.3	335.9	109.2	1,406.1 (1,355.1)*
1969	1,977.5 (2,028.5)*	238.8	102.9	296.4	167.9	394.0	208.7	189.4	121.3	258.1	390.1	115.9	1,471.5 (1,522.5)*
1970	2,129.8	246.4	82.8	382.3	256.4	422.3	233.4	170.9	134.2	201.1	391.2	114.7	1,623.9
1971	1,990.7	248.6	118.5	333.9	296.3	373.3	149.2	144.4	110.8	215.7	357.1	113.4	1,520.2
1972	1,739.2	258.7	100.8	240.0	255.3	343.8	98.8	120.0	101.8	220.0	305.5	123.3	1,310.4
1973	1,871.7	290.1	39.8	192.4	213.9	428.4	143.8	178.5	124.0	260.8	330.8	133.0	1,407.9
1974	2,024.0	294.8	44.9	223.1	250.5	479.4	158.3	190.3	131.6	251.1	361.4	138.2	1,524.4
1975	1,737.2	223.9	52.8	270.5	281.0	379.4	125.9	126.7	102.7	174.3	307.3	104.5	1,325.4
1976	1,653.0										251.9	121.0	1,280.1
1971 1st quarter	513.4	62.8	26.0	88.4	72.7	103.1	40.3	41.0	27.9	51.2	90.9	27.9	394.6
2nd quarter	499.0	61.0	26.7	78.7	71.3	96.4	40.7	39.5	29.4	55.3	90.0	29.0	380.0
3rd quarter	497.9	62.7	31.6	84.9	77.4	89.8	36.5	32.2	27.3	55.5	87.2	27.2	383.5
4th quarter	480.4	62.1	34.2	81.9	74.9	84.0	31.7	31.7	26.2	53.7	89.0	29.3	362.1
1972 1st quarter	458.1	60.0	30.8	69.0	84.1	82.1	26.2	26.3	22.1	57.5	79.8	28.2	350.1
2nd quarter	429.1	62.4	27.2	62.8	62.4	81.0	23.2	30.2	25.7	54.2	77.8	29.6	321.7
3rd quarter	424.8	67.8	22.2	57.5	53.6	88.5	23.5	30.3	26.7	54.7	76.3	31.9	316.6
4th quarter	427.2	68.5	20.6	50.7	55.2	92.2	25.9	33.2	27.3	53.6	71.6	33.6	322.0
1973 1st quarter	466.8	76.3	17.9	49.8	59.4	99.0	32.8	40.9	31.4	59.3	76.7	34.0	356.1
2nd quarter	448.9	64.8	18.1	49.3	40.7	106.4	34.0	40.5	30.8	64.3	78.2	31.9	338.8
3rd quarter	488.6	73.0	13.9	46.8	59.6	110.1	38.0	48.2	30.8	68.2	89.2	33.7	365.7
4th quarter	467.4	76.0	−10.1	46.5	54.2	112.9	39.0	48.9	31.0	69.0	86.7	33.4	347.3
1974 1st quarter	509.9	78.9	9.9	49.7	55.4	124.4	40.7	49.7	31.0	70.2	91.4	34.5	384.0
2nd quarter	502.2	76.0	9.8	51.5	60.8	117.6	39.8	48.6	34.1	64.0	89.4	35.3	377.5
3rd quarter	501.2	73.4	11.2	56.0	58.7	119.4	40.2	48.2	33.0	61.1	87.9	35.3	378.0
4th quarter	510.7	66.5	14.0	65.9	75.6	118.0	37.6	43.8	33.5	55.8	92.7	33.1	384.9
1975 1st quarter	471.2	63.2	12.8	68.2	69.8	106.5	35.3	36.7	29.0	49.7	87.4	28.5	355.3
2nd quarter	444.4	57.5	14.3	70.0	67.7	99.3	32.2	32.4	25.6	45.4	80.2	25.3	338.9
3rd quarter	416.1	49.7	14.7	69.3	70.9	89.4	28.6	29.0	25.4	39.1	72.7	24.9	318.5
4th quarter	405.5	53.5	11.0	63.0	72.6	84.2	29.8	28.6	22.7	40.1	67.0	25.8	312.7
1976 1st quarter	401.9	51.7	14.3	59.9	77.0	85.5	27.3	26.0	22.4	37.7	66.1	26.7	309.1
2nd quarter	408.5	49.6	12.9	66.5	80.0	84.4	31.1	23.3	21.5	39.0	61.9	31.2	315.4
3rd quarter	417.8	54.7	10.7	72.2	72.2	87.0	32.6	20.7	19.6	41.0	61.8	31.3	324.7
4th quarter	424.8										62.1	31.8	330.9

TABLE 3 Fixed capital expenditure in the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industry group: Wholesale distribution	Retail distribution	Other industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1966	1,334	147	231	956	570	342	421
1967	1,407	170	225	1,012	616	338	453
1968	1,561 (1,554)*	166	283	1,112 (1,105)*	624	368	570 (563)*
1969	1,683 (1,690)*	160	295	1,228 (1,235)*	650	389	643 (650)*
1970	1,799	176	299	1,325	666	394	739
1971	1,930	185	334	1,411	754	367	809
1972	2,071	198	400	1,473	736	436	899
1973	2,390	197	460	1,733	799	507	1,084
1974	2,289	174	432	1,683	803	478	1,008
1975	1,970	130	404	1,437	703	384	884
1976	1,893				632	420	841
1971 1st quarter	467	44	82	341	184	89	195
2nd quarter	479	46	86	346	185	96	198
3rd quarter	495	47	84	363	194	92	209
4th quarter	489	48	81	360	192	89	208
1972 1st quarter	487	49	91	347	178	102	207
2nd quarter	521	50	96	375	184	108	229
3rd quarter	522	46	103	373	180	112	231
4th quarter	540	53	109	378	195	114	232
1973 1st quarter	583	52	110	422	203	124	256
2nd quarter	593	50	118	426	203	121	269
3rd quarter	590	47	119	424	204	131	255
4th quarter	623	48	114	462	188	131	304
1974 1st quarter	601	47	107	447	210	125	266
2nd quarter	573	43	105	424	199	121	252
3rd quarter	556	45	102	409	201	116	239
4th quarter	559	39	118	402	193	116	250
1975 1st quarter	492	35	94	363	188	99	204
2nd quarter	498	34	102	363	181	93	224
3rd quarter	501	31	103	366	173	93	235
4th quarter	480	29	105	345	161	98	221
1976 1st quarter	453	32	107	315	160	98	195
2nd quarter	480	35	110	335	161	107	211
3rd quarter	485	35	95	354	163	112	211
4th quarter	475				149	103	224

TABLE 4 Fixed capital expenditure at current prices of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry
1966	2,787	1,517	1,172	99
1967	2,861	1,485	1,236	140
1968	3,304	1,639	1,418	247
1969	3,629	1,822	1,589	217
1970	4,294	2,130	1,799	364
1971	4,648	2,187	2,078	384
1972	4,971	2,044	2,373	553
1973	6,092	2,437	3,058	635
1974	7,087	3,145	3,447	611
1975	7,664	3,449	3,671	561
1976	8,441	3,945	4,101	396
1971 1st quarter	1,076	523	489	65
2nd quarter	1,131	519	504	108
3rd quarter	1,173	560	520	93
4th quarter	1,268	585	566	118
1972 1st quarter	1,160	512	543	105
2nd quarter	1,199	477	583	140
3rd quarter	1,197	504	582	111
4th quarter	1,415	552	666	197
1973 1st quarter	1,455	576	720	166
2nd quarter	1,383	541	733	118
3rd quarter	1,471	635	737	109
4th quarter	1,782	685	868	242
1974 1st quarter	1,619	711	832	90
2nd quarter	1,633	705	817	125
3rd quarter	1,795	795	840	173
4th quarter	2,099	934	958	223
1975 1st quarter	1,841	843	850	141
2nd quarter	1,828	815	880	137
3rd quarter	1,917	852	930	146
4th quarter	2,078	940	1,011	137
1976 1st quarter	1,960	906	930	110
2nd quarter	1,907	892	983	45
3rd quarter	2,184	997	1,039	148
4th quarter	2,392	1,151	1,148	94

NOTES TO TABLES

Capital expenditure comprises expenditure on vehicles (including ships) and plant and machinery less receipts from sales of these assets, and on new building work.

The analysis by industry group follows the Standard Industrial Classification Revised 1968 edition:

Manufacturing Orders III to XIX
Distributive Trades Order XXIII
Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by Finance Houses and similar businesses)
Retail MLH 820, 821
Other Industries Order XX (Construction): XXII (Transport and Communication) excluding 701 – Railways, 706 – Port and Inland Water Transport, 707 – Air Transport and 708 – Postal Services and Telecommunications: XXIV (Insurance, Banking, Finance and Business Services) including leasing by Finance Houses and similar Businesses and excluding Trustee Savings Banks; XXV (Professional and Scientific Services) excluding 872 – Educational Services and 874 – Medical and Dental Services; and XXVI (Miscellaneous Services).

SIC Orders I (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing), II (Mining and Quarrying), XXI (Gas, Electricity and Water), and XXVI (Public Administration and Defence) are completely excluded.

The estimates with the exception of those for manufacturing industry in Table 2, are shown to the nearest £m but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in Tables 2 and 3, because of the margins of error involved in the quarterly seasonal adjustments. Also, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the total and the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 25 February 1977.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
The Squeeze	BR/E 38987/27/2/82	106	22 February	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	Martinat Productions Ltd, London
A Pride of Penguins	BR/E 38992/27/2/82	20	23 February	Rank Film Distributors Ltd	Christopher K. Mylne, West Lothian
Think of an Answer	BR/E 38996/27/2/82	16	24 February	United Artists Corporation Ltd	Harold Baim Investments Ltd, London
Movietone News 2490	BR/E 38851/27/2/82	8	25 February	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
Secret Love Games	EC 38988/27/2/82	90	22 February	English Film Co Ltd	SODIAC, Paris
A Virgin for St Tropez	EC 38989/27/2/82	87	22 February	Rothernorth Ltd	Eurocine, Paris and CRC, Rome
Sexorcist	EC 38995/27/2/82	86	23 February	Intercontinental Film Distributors Ltd	Tiberia Film International SRL, Rome
Kings of the Road	EC 38999/27/2/82	175	25 February	Cinegate Ltd	Wim Wenders Produktion, Munich
			FOREIGN		
The Little Girl Who Lives Down The Lane	F 38990	91	22 February	Rank Film Distributors Ltd	Intercontinental Leisure Industrie Ltd, Montreal, Filmel and Filmedis, Paris
Andy Warhol's Bad	F 38991	103	22 February	EMI Film Distributors Ltd	Andy Warhol Enterprises Inc, New York
Helter Skelter	F 38993	92	23 February	Hemdale International Films Ltd	JAD International Inc, New York
Waves Of Lust	F 38994	91	23 February	Intercontinental Film Distributors Ltd	Alberto Bottari and Fabio Pittorru, Rome
Little Girl Big Tease	F 38997	80	25 February	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd	Cannon Realising Corporation, New York
Nickelodeon	F 38998	122	25 February	EMI Film Distributors Ltd	Chartoff-Winkler Productions Inc, New York

CORRECTION TO THE REGISTER

The registration number of the film 'Cross of Iron' registered on 11 February 1977 has been corrected to BR/E 38971C/13/2/82.

New companies in Northern Ireland during January

During January 1977, 51 private companies with a total nominal capital of £191,200 were incorporated; one private company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital was also incorporated.

During January 1977, 52 companies with a total nominal capital of £191,200 were incorporated as compared with 44 companies with a total nominal capital of £10,096,050 in the same period in 1976.

Activity in the textiles industries: correction

The following amendments should be made to tables 1 and 2 of the article 'Activity in the textile and clothing industries' (*Trade and Industry* 14 January, page 133):

Amend growth per cent 12 months ended Q3 1976/Q3 1975 against output of textiles and (Order XIII) to +3.0.

Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks in the fourth quarter

Manufacturing industry

It is provisionally estimated that manufacturers' stocks showed an increase of about £40 million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 1976. Work in progress showed an appreciable increase which together with a small rise in stocks of finished goods more than offset a decline in stocks of materials and fuel.

During the year 1976, manufacturers' stocks fell by about £40 million; this follows the heavy destocking of about £390 million which took place in 1975 and the heavy stockbuilding of about £670 million during 1974. The fall during 1976 was in stocks of materials and fuel which declined over the year as a whole by about £110 million. A rise in work in progress in the first quarter was followed by declines in the second and third quarters and a rise in the fourth quarter, making an increase over the year of about £30 million. Finished goods stocks showed an overall increase of about £40 million in the year.

The stocks/output ratio has fallen slightly during the quarter and is estimated to have been 102.4 at the end of December. This compares with 106.7 a year earlier.

Distributive industries

Provisional estimates indicate that wholesalers' stocks increased by about £30 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 1976. This result implies a rise of about £40 million in these stocks over the year. Retailers' stocks increased by about £20 million, in the fourth quarter, implying virtually no change over the year.

Note

The estimation of physical change in stock is subject to greater error when price increases are larger, and this should be borne in mind in using the figures.

Inquiries: 01-215 3176/5215 (Manufacturing).
01-215 3345 (Distributive and Service).

TABLE 1 Value of physical increase in industry's stocks at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing		Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1975	14,182	10,399	1,807	1,976	Level of stocks at end 1975	14,182	10,399	1,807	1,976
1970	379	325	68	−14	1973 1st quarter	292	172	37	82
1971	−74	−148	52	22	2nd quarter	307	99	3	205
1972	−82	−145	48	15	3rd quarter	119	42	29	48
1973	888	404	102	382	4th quarter	170	91	32	47
1974	636	666	81	−111					
1975	−526	−392	−111	−23	1974 1st quarter	−41	−21	18	−38
1976	4	−42	46	1	2nd quarter	259	197	43	19
					3rd quarter	322	358	3	−39
1971 1st quarter	24	26	14	−16	4th quarter	96	133	17	−53
2nd quarter	−62	−95	26	7					
3rd quarter	−26	−49	9	14	1975 1st quarter	−52	18	−31	−38
4th quarter	−10	−30	3	17	2nd quarter	−226	−105	−54	−66
					3rd quarter	−225	−234	−29	38
1972 1st quarter	−44	−62	17	1	4th quarter	−23	−70	4	43
2nd quarter	−29	−70	1	40					
3rd quarter	−43	−36	6	−13	1976 1st quarter	67	31	24	12
4th quarter	34	23	24	−13	2nd quarter	−192	−115	−22	−55
					3rd quarter	35	4	10	22
					4th quarter	95	38	34	22

TABLE 2 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by manufacturing industry at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Analysis by industry group							Analysis by type of asset		
	All manufacturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Engineering, shipbuilding, vehicles and metal goods	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing industries	Materials and fuel	Work in progress	Finished goods
Level of stocks at end 1975	10,399	1,324	1,097	829	5,228	876	1,045	3,546	4,028	2,826
1970	325	11	43	50	222	1	−1	113	122	90
1971	−148	11	17	5	−164	−14	−3	−146	−98	96
1972	−145	20	3	−44	−85	−53	15	−41	32	−136
1973	404	72	80	−13	230	13	23	244	252	−92
1974	666	75	172	26	270	46	78	276	107	283
1975	−392	−99	−40	39	−120	−40	−132	−380	−112	99
1976	−42							−107	27	38
1971 1st quarter	26	8	−5	34	−26	9	6	−21	−22	69
2nd quarter	−95	−5	16	−27	−43	−32	−4	−45	−63	13
3rd quarter	−49	−12	−2	−8	−27	5	−5	−42	−8	1
4th quarter	−30	21	9	6	−69	4	−1	−37	−5	13
1972 1st quarter	−62	8	15	−50	−11	−13	−11	−13	12	−61
2nd quarter	−70	16	−21	5	−67	−13	10	−53	20	−38
3rd quarter	−36	−8	6	−4	−15	−17	2	3	−7	−32
4th quarter	23	4	3	5	8	−11	13	22	7	−5
1973 1st quarter	172	3	19	29	85	−5	42	73	100	−1
2nd quarter	99	24	31	−4	53	6	−12	74	51	−27
3rd quarter	42	24	16	−15	21	3	−7	31	59	−48
4th quarter	91	20	15	−24	71	9	–	66	43	−17
1974 1st quarter	−21	22	44	−50	−19	−1	−18	66	−7	−80
2nd quarter	197	27	39	1	55	30	46	61	21	115
3rd quarter	358	42	74	39	136	24	42	135	73	150
4th quarter	133	−16	15	36	98	−7	7	14	21	98
1975 1st quarter	18	−12	−5	55	7	−1	−26	−129	29	118
2nd quarter	−105	−54	−22	15	15	−22	−37	−59	−31	−16
3rd quarter	−234	−28	−32	−26	−86	−16	−46	−133	−72	−29
4th quarter	−70	−4	19	−5	−56	−2	−22	−58	−38	26
1976 1st quarter	31	−34	24	−7	38	10	−1	−43	37	37
2nd quarter	−115	−11	16	−5	−81	−19	−15	−37	−66	−12
3rd quarter	4	11	27	36	−62	−8	−1	22	−20	2
4th quarter	38							−49	76	11

TABLE 3 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by wholesalers at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted £ million

	Total wholesalers	General wholesale distributors	Dealers in coal, builders materials, etc.	Dealers in industrial materials and machinery
Level of stocks at end 1975	1,807	1,040	147	620
1970	68	15	—	53
1971	52	41	−3	14
1972	48	41	11	−3
1973	102	127	−1	−24
1974	81	6	—	75
1975	−111	−142	−13	44
1976	46			
1971 1st quarter	14	3	1	11
2nd quarter	26	20	1	5
3rd quarter	9	12	—	−3
4th quarter	3	6	−4	2
1972 1st quarter	17	2	1	14
2nd quarter	1	4	2	−5
3rd quarter	6	22	2	−18
4th quarter	24	13	7	5
1973 1st quarter	37	37	−1	1
2nd quarter	3	13	3	−13
3rd quarter	29	41	1	−13
4th quarter	32	36	−4	—
1974 1st quarter	18	19	6	−7
2nd quarter	43	21	1	22
3rd quarter	3	−22	−4	29
4th quarter	17	−12	−2	31
1975 1st quarter	−31	−52	12	9
2nd quarter	−54	−52	−11	9
3rd quarter	−29	−26	−6	4
4th quarter	4	−12	−7	23
1976 1st quarter	24	11	20	−7
2nd quarter	−22	8	−10	−20
3rd quarter	10	−16	6	20
4th quarter	34			

TABLE 4 Increase in the book value of manufacturers' and distributors' stocks

£ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1975	28,340	21,287	3,629	3,423
1970	1,305	1,038	162	105
1971	768	471	160	137
1972	950	618	217	115
1973	3,408	2,331	593	484
1974	6,299	5,098	779	422
1975	3,302	2,574	212	516
1976	5,992	4,600	913	479
1971 1st quarter	260	211	29	21
2nd quarter	295	180	60	55
3rd quarter	113	28	70	14
4th quarter	100	53	—	47
1972 1st quarter	90	60	5	26
2nd quarter	198	113	25	60
3rd quarter	251	148	106	−3
4th quarter	412	298	82	32
1973 1st quarter	600	426	71	102
2nd quarter	678	494	88	96
3rd quarter	959	604	239	116
4th quarter	1,171	807	194	170
1974 1st quarter	1,756	1,492	204	60
2nd quarter	1,845	1,438	224	183
3rd quarter	1,521	1,249	199	73
4th quarter	1,177	919	152	106
1975 1st quarter	987	927	−16	76
2nd quarter	640	607	−20	53
3rd quarter	553	257	124	172
4th quarter	1,122	783	123	215
1976 1st quarter	1,004	829	119	56
2nd quarter	1,216	1,079	147	−9
3rd quarter	1,770	1,257	340	173
4th quarter	2,002	1,435	307	259

Book values exclude VAT. Purchase Tax payable on retailer's stock prior to the second quarter of 1973.

The estimates are shown to the nearest £ million but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in Tables 2 and 3 because of the margin of error involved in quarterly seasonal adjustments. Differences between totals and the sum of constituent parts are due to rounding.

Notes relating to Tables 1 to 4

The analysis by industry group follows the Standard Industrial Classification (1968 edition).

Manufacturing Orders III to XIX.

Distributive Trades Order XXII:

Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by Finance Houses)

Retail MLH 820, 821

TABLE 5 The relationship of manufacturers' stocks to manufacturing production

	Index numbers – 4th quarter 1969 = 100 Seasonally adjusted				Index numbers – 4th quarter 1969 = 100 Seasonally adjusted		
	Stock levels at 1970 prices	Production (with 1970 net output weight)	Ratio of stocks to production		Stock levels at 1970 prices	Production (with 1970 net output weight)	Ratio of stocks to production
1967 Q1	94	89	105.4	1972 Q1	101	98	103.0
2	94	90	104.6	2	101	102	98.4
3	94	90	104.5	3	100	103	96.9
4	94	92	102.6	4	100	107	94.0
1968 Q1	93	94	98.8	1973 Q1	102	111	92.2
2	94	96	98.4	2	103	111	93.3
3	96	96	99.5	3	104	112	92.7
4	97	97	99.8	4	105	111	93.9
1969 Q1	98	98	100.0	1974 Q1	104	107	97.4
2	99	100	98.7	2	106	110	96.8
3	99	100	99.5	3	110	110	99.8
4	100	100	100.0	4	111	106	105.0
1970 Q1	101	100	101.1	1975 Q1	112	106	104.9
2	102	100	102.0	2	111	100	110.2
3	103	101	101.7	3	108	100	108.4
4	103	101	102.2	4	107	101	106.7
1971 Q1	104	100	104.0	1976 Q1	108	102	105.3
2	103	100	102.3	2	107	104	102.7
3	102	100	101.8	3	107	104	102.8
4	102	99	102.7	4	107	104	102.4

1 The index numbers of the level of stocks relate to the end of each quarter: the index of production refers to production during the quarter.

2 The 1970 index of production has been rebased on the fourth quarter of 1969 for the purpose of this table.

3 The index numbers of the stocks production ratio are calculated from unrounded estimates of the data in the previous two columns.

Manufacturers' stocks in December

It is estimated that manufacturers' stocks rose by about £40 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in December. A rise in work in progress appears to account for most of this increase.

Monthly figures from January 1975 adjusted to agree with the quarterly figures published in the preceding article are shown below:

£ million

	1970 prices seasonally adjusted
1975 January	+10
February	+20
March	−10
April	−30
May	−10
June	−70
July	−80
August	−50
September	−100
October	−70
November	−10
December	+10
1976 January	+40
February	no change
March	−10
April	−90
May	+40
June	−60
July	−50
August	+20
September	+30
October	no change
November	no change
December	+40

Inquiries: 01-215 3176/5215.

Motor vehicle output in January

Production of cars in the four weeks ending 29 January of 123,166 units (30,792 per week) was 28 per cent above the January 1976 level. Production for the home market rose by 16 per cent while that for export rose by 44 per cent.

Production of commercial vehicles was 33,388 units (8,347 per week), a rise of 28 per cent from the January 1976 level. Production for the home market rose by 40 per cent while that for export rose by 18 per cent.

(The summaries which follow are based on the seasonally adjusted figures shown in table 2.)

Cars

Car production in January of 128,000 units was 16 per cent above the monthly average for 1976. Production for the three months November to January was 13 per cent above the preceding three months. Production for the home market rose by 5 per cent while production for export rose by 23 per cent.

Commercial vehicles

Commercial vehicle production in January of 37,500 units was 21 per cent above the monthly average for 1976. In the three months November to January, output rose by 11 per cent compared with the preceding three months. Output for the home market rose by 16 per cent while that for export rose by 6 per cent.

Notes to table 2

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	15.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.3	14.2	33.5
1975	61	45	106	16.2	15.5	31.7
1976	64	47	111	15.2	15.8	31.0
1977						
1976 1st quarter	67	49	116	14.7	16.9	31.6
2nd quarter	68	46	114	15.2	16.2	31.4
3rd quarter	62	44	106	15.0	15.4	30.4
4th quarter	59	48	107	15.9	14.7	30.6
1977 1st quarter						
2nd quarter						
3rd quarter						
4th quarter						
1976 January	58	44	102	13.1	16.8	29.9
February	74	53	127	15.4	17.1	32.5
March	70	50	120	15.6	16.9	32.5
April	65	46	111	14.5	15.9	30.4
May	72	48	120	16.1	16.8	32.9
June	66	46	112	15.1	15.8	30.9
July	82	49	131	17.1	16.0	33.1
August	43	39	82	12.9	14.4	27.3
September	62	44	106	15.0	15.7	30.7
October	64	47	111	15.5	15.4	30.9
November	61	51	112	17.6	16.0	33.6
December	51	48	99	14.6	12.8	27.4
1977 January	66	62	128	17.9	19.6	37.5
Average of :						
Aug.-Oct. 1976	56	44	100	14.5	15.2	29.7
Nov 1976-Jan 1977	59	54	113	16.7	16.1	32.8
Percentage change	+5	+23	+13	+16	+6	+11

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,049	416,623	8,012
1974	52	937,932	596,187	1,534,119	29,502	232,373	170,193	402,566	7,742
1975	52	735,532	532,164	1,267,696	24,379	194,319	186,386	380,705	7,321
1976	53	768,481	564,968	1,333,449	25,159	182,554	189,503	372,057	7,020
1977	52								
1976 1st quarter	13	209,955	148,844	358,799	27,600	44,978	48,785	93,763	7,213
2nd quarter	13	205,839	143,677	349,516	26,886	46,510	51,249	97,759	7,520
3rd quarter	13	145,427	108,233	253,660	19,512	36,730	39,225	75,955	5,843
4th quarter	14	207,260	164,214	371,474	26,534	54,336	50,244	104,580	7,470
1977 1st quarter	13								
2nd quarter	13								
3rd quarter	13								
4th quarter	13								
1976 January	4	56,966	39,432	96,398	24,100	12,051	13,971	26,022	6,506
February	4	68,878	50,913	119,791	29,948	14,468	15,829	30,297	7,574
March	5	84,111	58,499	142,610	28,522	18,459	18,985	37,444	7,489
April	4	54,445	38,281	92,726	23,182	13,209	14,019	27,228	6,807
May	4	76,074	51,169	127,243	31,811	16,122	18,245	34,367	8,592
June	5	75,320	54,227	129,547	25,909	17,179	18,985	36,164	7,233
July	4	56,334	34,350	90,684	22,671	12,389	13,444	25,833	6,458
August	4	32,971	31,801	64,772	16,193	8,871	9,219	18,090	4,523
September	5	56,122	42,082	98,204	19,641	15,470	16,562	32,032	6,406
October	5	82,077	59,240	141,317	28,263	19,947	19,320	39,267	7,853
November	4	67,512	52,863	120,375	30,094	17,922	15,706	33,628	8,407
December	5	57,671	52,111	109,782	21,956	16,467	15,218	31,685	6,337
1977 January	4	66,199	56,967	123,166	30,792	16,852	16,536	33,388	8,347

Note : The number of vehicles produced for export shown in these tables differs from the number exported (which are shown in the Overseas Trade Statistics) because of differences in timing and coverage.

Sales by wholesale textile houses in December

Sales by wholesale textile houses in December showed an increase of 15 per cent on a year earlier, compared with a decrease of 4 per cent in October and an increase of 13 per cent in November.

The value of stocks at the end of December showed an increase of 2 per cent compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*−3*	..	..
1967	104	*−5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*−5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1974	147	*9*	..	..
1975	147	*1*	..	..
1976	146	*−1*	..	..
1973 1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974 1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*−3*
1975 1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*−2*
3rd quarter	146	*−1*	193	*−1*
4th quarter	165	*−5*	224	*13*
1976 1st quarter	133	*−8*	234	*7*
2nd quarter	127	*−6*	212	*8*
3rd quarter	149	*2*	204	*6*
4th quarter	176	*8*	228	*2*
1975 December	153	*−4*	224	*13*
1976 January	86	*−12*	213	*4*
February	138	*−11*	227	*6*
March	174	*−1*	234	*7*
April	136	*−9*	208	*7*
May	128	—	217	*2*
June	119	*−9*	212	*8*
July	115	*−8*	221	*6*
August	137	*9*	216	*5*
September	194	*4*	204	*6*
October	184	*−4*	208	*6*
November	169	*−13*	229	*−1*
December	175	*15*	228	*2*

Detailed statistics of UK overseas trade

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The fully detailed information is not published on a monthly basis but, when circumstances allow, HM Customs and Excise can supply detailed information about trade under individual descriptions of the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classsification and with individual countries or through United Kingdom ports, either for particular months or for longer periods. A charge is made which covers the cost of the service.

Applications should be made to the Statistical Office, Bill of Entry Section, HM Customs and Excise, 27 Victoria Avenue; Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6AL (Tel. Southend (0702) 49421, ext. 316 or 323 for Imports, or ext. 314 or 315 for Exports; Telex 99112 CUSEX Southend).

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

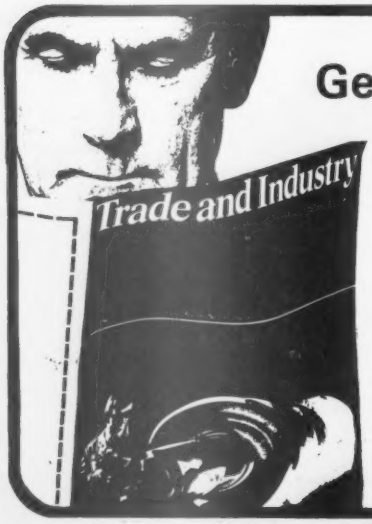
Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks†
	Dec. 1976	Jan.-Dec. 1976	Dec. 1976
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	5	9	12
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	30	15	22
Women's underwear	21	−7	−1
Women's hose and children's socks	20	−3	3
Women's millinery	−28	−19	−15
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	23	2	14
Children's wear	24	3	34
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	37	2	−1
Gloves	82	9	29
Piece-goods and nets	−26	—	12
Household textiles	31	11	19
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	8	−4	−2
Boots and shoes	42	7	−8
Total‡	15	−1	2

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Note

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, the Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).



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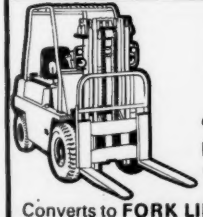

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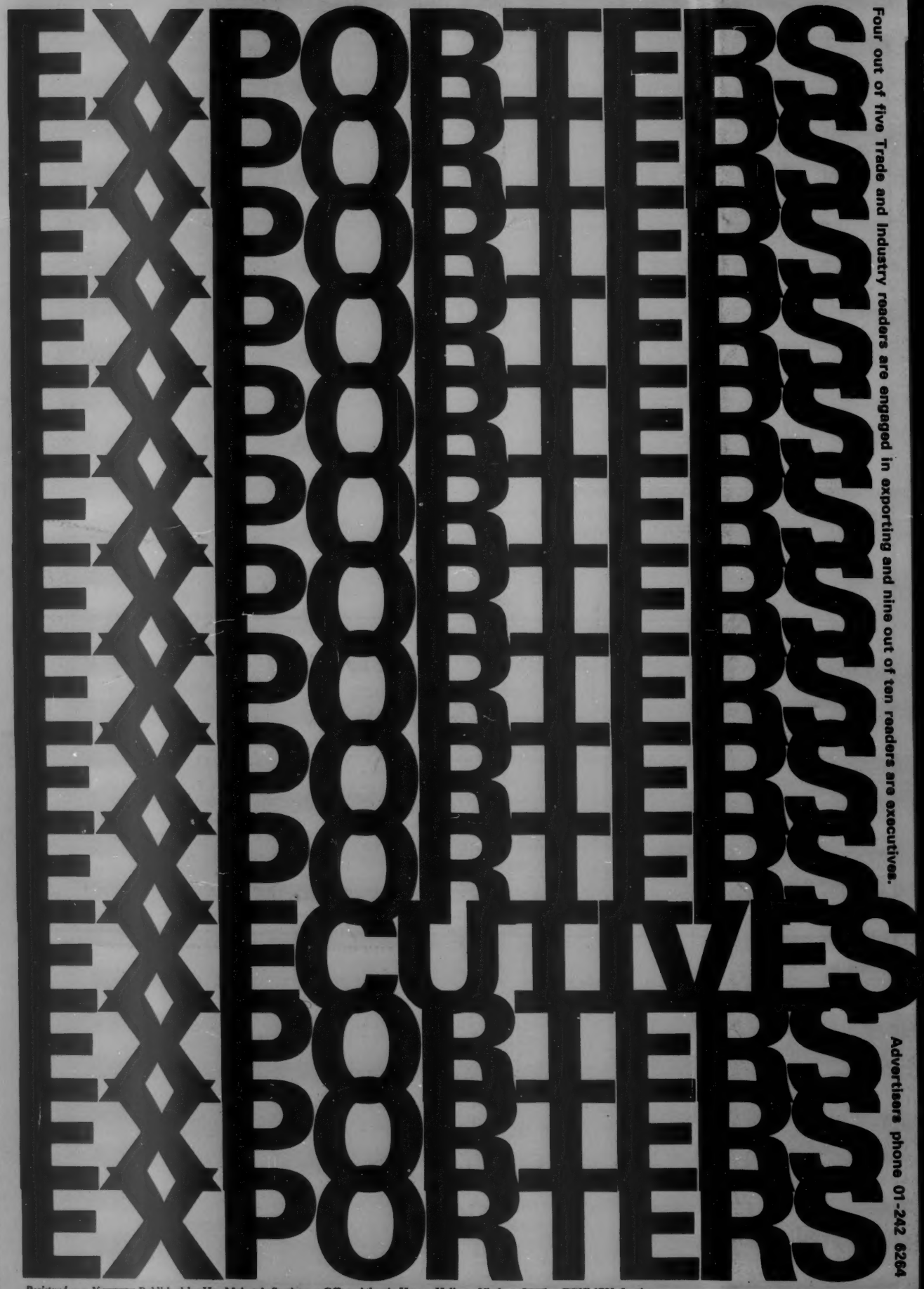
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